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THE COASTS AND HARBOURS

OF SCOTLAND

WITH A TABLE OF MEASURES

THE COAST AND ISLANDS

SCOTLAND

THE ISLE OF MAN

THE COASTS AND ISLANDS

OF

SCOTLAND,

AND

THE ISLE OF MAN.

THE COASTS AND ISLANDS
OF
SCOTLAND,
AND
THE ISLE OF MAN.

SKETCHES

OF

THE GILBERT ISLANDS

SCOTLAND

THE COASTS AND ISLANDS

THE ISLE OF MAN

SCOTLAND

AND THE ISLE OF MAN

AND

THE ISLE OF MAN

THE ISLE OF MAN

IN TWO VOLUMES

BY LORD LIGNHURST

VOLUME THE SECOND

LONDON

JOHN W. PATERSON, PRINTER

SKETCHES
OF
THE COASTS AND ISLANDS
OF
SCOTLAND,
AND OF
THE ISLE OF MAN;
DESCRIPTIVE OF THE SCENERY,
AND ILLUSTRATIVE OF
THE PROGRESSIVE REVOLUTION IN THE ECONOMICAL, MORAL
AND SOCIAL CONDITION OF THE INHABITANTS
OF THOSE REGIONS.

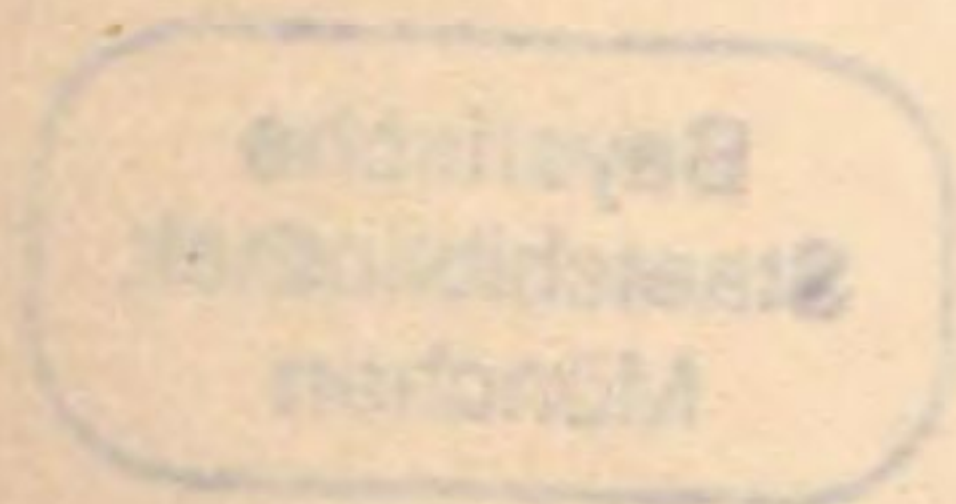
IN TWO VOLUMES.

BY LORD TEIGNMOUTH.

VOLUME THE SECOND.

LONDON:
JOHN W. PARKER, WEST STRAND.

M.DCCC.XXXVI.



THE COASTS AND ISLANDS

SCOTLAND

THE COASTS AND ISLANDS

CHAPTER XIV

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CHAPTER XVIII

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SKETCHES OF THE COASTS AND ISLANDS

OF

SCOTLAND;

AND OF

THE ISLE OF MAN.

CHAPTER XIV.

SUTHERLANDSHIRE, HELMSDALE, PORT GOWER,
NEW SYSTEM, DUNROBIN, DORNOCH, TAIN, SKIBO,
TONGUE, WHITENHEAD, LOCH-ERIBOL, RISPO, N,
HERRING-FISHERY, SEAL-FISHERY, LORD REAY'S
FOREST, CAVE OF SMO, DIURNESS, LOCHS IN-
CHARD AND LAXFORD, SCOURIE, ISLE OF HANDA,
LOCH BADCOL, OBSERVANCE OF SABBATH, LOCH
SCOURIE, CHANGE OF MANNERS AND CUSTOMS.

FROM the southern and Sutherlandshire side of the
Ord, a prospect of a different character opens to
the view; a broad well-cultivated valley, bounded
on one side by the sea, and on the other by a ridge,
diversified by corn-fields and pastures, enclosed by
neat fences; excellent farm-houses, surrounded by
clumps of tall trees; well-built cottages and gar-
dens; and at the foot of the mountain, the little
town of Helmsdale, and principal station of the
Marquis of Stafford's herring-fishery, on the river

of the same name: a scene which, in the midst of rugged rocks and dreary wilds, reminds the Englishman of his own more favoured land, and affords, when contrasted with the dreary and barren aspect which it presented a few years ago, a striking proof of the magical power of well-directed enterprise, and well-employed capital. Helmsdale, built on a spot occupied formerly by a few huts, consists of a good inn, several respectable houses and shops, and no less than ten large houses for curing fish. The women were busily employed in the process, preparing with surprising rapidity the cargo for the vessels which lay in the harbour. The harbour is accessible to large vessels only at high water. As a fishing-station, Helmsdale is preferred even to Wick. The Marquis of Stafford* has a distillery here, and another at Brora, in both of which, the small-still system, producing finer whiskey, has been successfully introduced.

Port Gower, two miles south of Helmsdale, a long street of tiled cottages, and Brora, between Port Gower, and Golspie, a small town, with neat shops, and a small harbour, date their existence from the same period as Helmsdale. The latter place possesses a small fishery; and near to it some iron-founderies have been constructed on the bank of the stream.

* The late Duke of Sutherland.

The coast of Sutherlandshire is low, and the southern prospect is bounded by a long line of coast extending to the promontory of Tarbet Ness, forming the southern side of the Firth of Dornoch. The vista of newly-erected towns, villages, farms, and fishing-establishments, which line the coast, is at length terminated by the *policy* or park of Dunrobin, in the midst of which, enclosed by forest-trees and rising plantations, stands the castle, the ancient baronial residence of the earls of Sutherland.

The success of the Marquis of Stafford's experiment, in removing his tenants from their miserable abodes, and precarious subsistence, in the interior of the country, to the coast, has gradually subdued the animadversions of the opponents of his system. If the transfer produced no benefit either to landlord or tenant, and served only to make a forced display of population and wealth, like the moveable villages which marched with Catherine, during her progress through the Russian dominions, and were drawn up to receive her when she halted, no reply can be given to the heavy charge which has been brought against Lord Stafford, of having unnecessarily severed all the ties which bind man, and especially the Highlander, to his birth-place, his employments, and the inseparable associations, and of having compelled him to change his habits as well as his residence, and to adopt occupations for which, if not in youth, he was probably alto-

gether unqualified. But before we adopt such a conclusion, let us consider, impartially, the state of this country when Lord Reay, whose estate comprises the three western parishes, and afterwards, Lord Stafford*, proprietor of the greater part of the remainder of the county, commenced the change in question.

Sutherlandshire consists chiefly of vast mountainous ridges, intersected by deep and broad valleys or straths. These straths, and the sides of the hills, were formerly thinly peopled by a peasantry occupying miserable huts, or grouped together in small hamlets, possessing at most a little patch of cultivated land, a cow, or a few sheep; often destitute even of these comforts, and tempted to eke out a dubious subsistence by depredation,†

* The ancient patrimony of the Sutherland family was small. During the last century, it gradually increased by the addition of the estates of lesser independent proprietors, and having recently absorbed, by purchase, Lord Reay's property, comprehends nearly the whole county. By the elevation of the Marquis of Stafford to the Dukedom of Sutherland, a title the most ancient in Scotland, and during many generations invested with almost regal dignity, will not be merged.

The Earl of Sutherland is the only representative of the thaneships instituted by Malcolm Ceanmor (1066), when he removed the seat of government from the Highlands. General Stewart mentions that the Chief of Sutherland fought at Bannockburn.

† "The system of depredation formerly pursued may be

illicit distillation, and the bounty of the landlords, who were compelled to supply them with large gratuitous donations of meal. To the tenant, such a condition offered no prospect but that of wretchedness and inducement to crime, which no moral checks would probably counteract, while the cause remained: to the landlord it threatened progressive losses, terminating in ruin. And yet over such accumulating evils the thin veil of poetic illusion was spread; and the public, whose humane feelings and national prejudices had been roused by erroneous and exaggerated representations, pictured to themselves, in the wilds of Sutherlandshire, scenes of romantic bliss and pastoral innocence, and regarded with indignation the tyranny which, instigated, as it was supposed, by covetousness, tore the happy highlanders from their paternal seats, and consigned their land to devastation. To such a people, if our conclusions, stated in a former part of these Sketches, were just, emigration to America would have proved a blessing. Lord Reay had adopted it upon his estate to a limited extent, but at length preferred the plan which the Marquis of Stafford afterwards adopted and pursued almost exclusively, of removing his tenants from the interior of the country to the coasts, which afforded better and

inferred from the fact that, in 1790, out of fifty-two prisoners in the gaol of Inverness, thirty were committed for horse-stealing."—*Statistical Survey*.

more cultivable land, fisheries, and greater facility of intercourse. No social ties were severed but those which crime had bound, as the people were moved in clans: and though the Highlander, to whom might be justly applied the generous sentiment of the poet, that

. . . . the tempest and the torrent's roar

But bind him to his native mountains more,

would feel a severe pang at bidding farewell to his hereditary haunts, yet he would have evidently yielded to the dictates of good sense, manly feeling, and the prospect of an honest livelihood, had he not been bound to them by the love of indolence, or of wild liberty, or of lawless and predatory adventure. Better-grounded objections to the change would, no doubt be justly made by those unaccustomed to maritime pursuits: but age was admitted as a reasonable plea of exemption; the fishery requiring only a portion of the colony. The Marquis's agents were accused, but unjustly, of forcing civilization upon the people too summarily, and of harsh measures in the execution of their scheme; and, in one instance, of firing a house, which the inhabitants refused to quit, which became a subject of legal inquiry. The tenants were, on the other hand, charged with refractory and turbulent conduct*.

* I was informed, at Edinburgh, by the then sheriff of the county of Sutherland, that the rumours originated in groundless apprehension; and that, though he had ordered a regi-

That the experiment has been justified by the result, no doubt can be entertained. It is true, that the state of the population in the different parishes of the estate, at the present period, and at that previous to the introduction of the new system, exhibits, though varying in its details, the same total, amounting to 15,000. But the better condition, the superior comforts and advantages, the moral improvement of the present peasantry, and their exemption from many crimes to which they were before addicted, prove that the benefits which they have derived from the removal are incalculable. To the landlord, the change will be ultimately equally advantageous, though hitherto, perhaps, he has scarcely indemnified himself for the great original outlay. He receives increased profits from the additional or improved resources of his own estate; and is not compelled to waste his income in supporting a wretched tenantry, or in bolstering up a defective and vicious system. The germ of future revenue is, however, rapidly developing itself, and the nation is benefited by the moral as well as economical improvement.

ment to be in readiness in a neighbouring county, he had never any occasion for its services. General Stewart mentions that the tumults in the neighbouring county of Ross, on the ejection of the tenants, were quelled by military. The cottars who had been spared had, in the first instance, collected together all the sheep which had been placed on the large stock-farms in a body, and driven them across the boundaries of the county.

One manifest amendment has already taken place:—that resulting from the substitution of legal whisky, produced by the stills erected for the illicit spirit formerly distilled and consumed on his estate; which could have been only partially effected, and with considerable difficulty and expense, had the peasantry remained in their old unfrequented wilds. The perpetuity of that system of order, neatness, and cleanliness, which now prevails, being certainly repugnant to the natural habits of the people, will depend upon the personal superintendence and perseverance of those who may hereafter succeed to the management of the estate. At present, they are completely reconciled to it, and vie with each other in embellishing their houses: new generations are advancing, and new habits are formed; and the majority of the settlers would probably return with much greater aversion to their former poverty and precarious habits, than they felt in originally renouncing them.

The approach to the castle is ornamented by a stately avenue. On this side, this ancient building presents a somewhat shapeless mass, constructed on so defensive a plan, as to exclude not only the shafts of an enemy, but the rays of the sun. The family arms are sculptured over the door. The absence of the noble proprietor and his lady, who had proceeded southward a short time before, rendered a letter of introduction unavailing. The castle is on

the plan of Dunvegan, but larger: it was built at different times from the thirteenth century. The apartments are small and commodious, and well protected from the winds. They contain some old furniture, arms, and ancient memorials. The tower commands an extensive view of the surrounding park and plantations, the amphitheatre of high hills which embrace it, the sea, and the line of coast.

Golspie, another of the villages erected by the Duke, borders on the south side of the park, and contains a new and respectable inn, at which I passed Sunday. At the parish-church, a chapter of the Old Testament and one of the New, were read; an unusual practice of the Highland churches.

The houses of Golspie are occupied by tradesmen and labourers, with the exception of a few fishermen, who inhabit inferior buildings. The profits arising from the personal attendance of the landed proprietor are nowhere more apparent than in this neat and well-ordered village, which contained, thirteen years ago, only two houses.

The same number also constituted, at that time, Brora, which is now well peopled.

The surface of the park is pleasantly varied by knolls and dells, ornamented by plantations, and rendered accessible by walks. The castle occupies a commanding situation, in the midst of the finest trees of the park, on the edge of a steep ridge, overlooking the sea, and a small pier, affording

safe shelter to vessels of moderate burden. The inaptitude of the Highlands to the growth of timber is disproved, as much by the success which, except in particularly-exposed districts, has attended the modern plantations, as by the remains of its ancient forests.

The southern road crosses, by a recently-raised dyke, the entrance of Loch Fleet, a deep bay, round which the road formerly wound, making a tedious circuit of several miles. On an opposite ridge appear the plantations of Skelbo, a seat of the Marquis of Stafford. The farm is said to be conducted in very superior style. The road is all along adorned with natural wood.

Dornoch, the county-town of Sutherlandshire, contains an old cathedral, now used as a parish church—a square and lofty building; and an old castle, converted into a gaol, and town-house. The place is fast declining, and exhibits a desolate appearance on the shore of the Firth which bears its name. The town of Tain, another royal borough, lies on the opposite shore of the Firth. A little above Tain, the Firth diminishes in breadth, and winds far inland, affording safe anchorage to shipping, when they have been so fortunate as to make good their entrance, a work of risk and difficulty, except at high water. The mansion of Skibo stands near its northern shore, on a broad and well-planted plain, sheltered from the north winds by high trees.

From Skibo, I shaped my course to the north-west coast of Sutherlandshire. The iron bridge of Bonar is the wonder of the country. Two roads diverge hence from the grand route; one to Assynt, not yet finished, visible for some miles, pursuing its course by the sides of a river, along a broad strath, passing Ross Hall, the seat of Lady Ashburton; and the other to Tongue. A river, flowing through woods and plantations, enlivens the immediate vicinity of the road to Lairgs, but all beyond is moorland, hill, and dale. The hamlet and small inn of Lairgs stand on the bank of Loch Shinn, a long narrow sheet of water, the principal link in a chain of lakes, which, forming a regular communication between the Firth of Dornoch and Loch Laxford, on the western coast, thus insulate the northern extremity of the island.

Three ponies, sent forward by Mr. Dempster of Skibo, met me here; and I proceeded the first stage, twenty miles of brown straths and mountains, to a solitary inn, near Loch Naver, which lies in the strath of the same name. From this and an adjacent strath, were removed part of the population now collected on the coast. Here were experienced in their full extent the ravages of the new system*. Here Goldsmith might have laid the

* The descriptions of these glens after the expulsion of the tenants may be literally summed up in the graphic language of Tacitus: "Vastum ubique silentium, secreti colles, fumantia procultecta, nemo exploratoribus obvi-"

scene of his *Deserted Village*, could he have found a vestige of the former inhabitants. But unfortunately for such pathetic lamentations, the banished colony are dwelling on the opposite side of the neighbouring range of mountains, in a state of comparative ease, prosperity, and comfort, happily contrasted with their former poverty and degradation.

The road, still excellent, passes through a similar wilderness, till within a few miles of Tongue, when it enters a pass between Loch Layghall (Layal pronounced) on the right, and Ben Layghall on the left, a long and lofty ridge, terminating in jagged peaks, more Alpine and picturesque in their form than any other which I had seen in Scotland, except those of Sky, Ben Stromena, and Arran : the other side of the lake is less grand. The scenery of the pass, for several miles along the western shore of this and another smaller lake, is striking. From a steep hill, Tongue becomes visible at the head of its bay. The road is overshadowed by the lofty cliffs of Ben Layghall.

I breakfasted next morning at the Manse. The meal commenced, as usual in this part of the country, with the dram. The minister, Mr. Mackenzie, rivals his Orkney brethren in longevity, being in his ninetieth year. He has a brother residing near Dornoch, still hale, *ten years older than himself*. He has held his present situation, as minister of Tongue, during sixty years ; in his eighty-second

year, he performed, on foot, the journey of Assynt, which is one of the roughest in Scotland. His memory supplies an inexhaustible fund of anecdote. Zealous for his church, and liberal in his disposition, he has educated his son and also his nephews for the ministry. The former now assists his father, uniting the functions of physician with that of minister, as no medical advice is to be had nearer than Thurso or Tain. But the old minister has not wholly relinquished his duties : he still preaches twice on Sunday, and attends the school on other days. His parish, and the neighbouring parishes of Diurness and Edderachillis together, comprehend the whole of Lord Reay's property.

The population of Tongue received an additional third from the interior, at the removal of the natives. Mr. Mackenzie spoke judiciously of the effect of the change of system, admitting, whilst he evidently exhibited symptoms of the displeasure with which he had regarded its introduction, that the people were now quite reconciled to it, and that a moral change and improvement had taken place amongst them, which could not have been otherwise expected. They were happy now, he said, but they were also, he added, happy in their former lot. But their contentment, at that time, depended very much on a source to which it is obvious that no tenantry ought habitually to look,—the large gratuitous supplies of meal, which, he acknowledged,

Lord Reay was compelled to afford them, as their scanty and precarious crops were frequently destroyed by the frosts. As new settlements were not provided for all who were removed, a portion of the ejected tenants, as has been already stated, emigrated to America. He spoke with great enthusiasm of the moral change which had taken place in his parish, attributing it in a great measure to the formation of various schools, and the circulation of the Scriptures. He believed that every person in the parish could now read. If this be the fact, the progress of instruction since 1822, when the Inverness Society instituted its inquiries, at which period above half the number of persons above eight years of age were found unable to read, must have been rapid. For the circulation of the Scriptures, he called down Blessings on the Bible Society, by which he had been liberally supplied: every house in his parish was now furnished with one or two copies, besides catechisms. He stated that every family observed the excellent practice of assembling for domestic worship, reading the Scriptures, and singing psalms. And he believed that he had only two habitual drunkards in his parish.

A small river descending from Ben Layghall flows into the Kyle, or Bay of Tongue, beneath a low but steep precipice, a little above the village; and on the point are the ruins of an old castle.

Lord Reay's house, or rather cottage, is prettily situated in the midst of forest-trees, near the shore of the Kyle. A field in front of the cottage would make an admirable site for a mansion, commanding a fine view of the castle at the upper part of the bay, and of Ben Layghall, towering proudly in the distance; and, on the other side, of the islands, which obstruct the entrance of the bay, and break the line of ocean.

My aged host accompanied me to the boat destined to convey me to Loch Eribol, and gave me his benediction at parting.

The Kyle of Tongue is inaccessible to vessels at low water; and, even at high tide, the entrance is rendered somewhat precarious by the islands, shifting as well as fixed, and the sand-banks. Our boat got aground more than once. The coasts are low and tame; but grow bolder and more elevated as the bay opens, and present, on both sides, projecting headlands, which group well with the numerous islands. The coast to westward is very rugged, and terminates in the huge, and, on this side, ruddy, promontory of Whitenhead.

A fair breeze bore us to this point, and we perceived, immediately, a round massy white pile of cliffs, separated from that which first came into view by a narrow, dark, and intricate inlet, winding amid a cluster of spiral rocks of the same chalky hue, and guarded at its entrance by two pyramids

of great height: a double headland, uniting the diverse characteristics of stupendous size, various form, singular grouping, and contrasted colour, in a degree, perhaps, unequalled in any other part of the British coasts. A third peak of the same whiten hue, which distinguishes the coast for a considerable distance, rises to westward. The Whiten Head owes much of its highly picturesque formation to the violence of the sea during the north-west gales, by which it has been in many places deeply excavated. I rowed into the largest of the caves, admiring its vast overarching roof, exhibiting a sort of mosaic, of the richest brown, yellow, red, and green colours, blending their tints, and chequered by the dim reflected rays admitted through the apertures, into which the waves tumbled heavily, chafing and moaning in hoarse cadence along the echoing walls of their spacious prison. To my disappointment, it was untenanted by its usual inhabitants, the seals; its sole possessors being a large flock of young scarts, or cormorants, which started from a snug lurking-place, and swam forth in procession past us, apparently perfectly tame, forming a very graceful little flotilla, as their shape and motion, while swimming, is very elegant. The green colour of the birds is much brighter, and the beak much yellower in the young, than in the full-sized. They breed in great numbers in the caves of this coast.

The Whiten Head is the eastern headland of Loch Eribol, an extensive bay of about ten miles in length, which the largest vessels can enter in any state of the tides, affording good anchorage, and a convenient retreat to the numerous fishing-vessels employed in the adjacent seas. It is the only haven on this formidable coast for the ships engaged in the Baltic and other trades, between Cape Rath and Duncansby Head, as the Scrabster Roads, in Thurso Bay, are unsafe during a north-wind. The lofty Ben Hope rises from the south-eastern shore of Loch Eribol on the bank of a fresh-water lake of the same name.

We crossed Loch Eribol to Rispon, an opposite cove, within which we found a receptacle which the inhospitable and uninhabited aspect of the coast gave us little reason to expect, consisting of a snug and safe haven for small vessels; a good house and adjoining offices; and a vessel undergoing repairs on the beach; and, protected on all sides from the sweeping winds, a fishing-establishment, formed by Mr. Anderson, who gave me a hearty welcome. Rispon affords a striking instance of the success of well-directed speculation. It is four years since Mr. Anderson commenced fishing in this lonely spot. He has a commodious dwelling, and a curing-house for the fish adjoining it. His principal object is the herring-fishery, in which he employs two sloops, each of from forty to fifty tons, besides many

boats: he had twenty in his service last year, each manned by four men. His attention is directed chiefly to the *early rich herrings* of the deep, and he commences his operations on the 1st of June, and despatches his first cargo on the 4th. The fish are at this season extremely fat; the garbage which they contain nearly equals the fish itself in weight: the principal food found in them are sand-eels, and their own young. The soldier-crab is said to be a common food of the herring, but is never discovered in fish taken here. In a more advanced season, in July, for instance, when fishing commences on the coast of Caithness-shire, and in Loch Fine, the fish become full of spawn, and proportionably thin. As the Dutch also fish in the late season, the early fish experience little molestation.

Mr. Anderson is not the only individual who embarks in this early fishing. Another spirited individual, Mr. Macdonald, who has an establishment at Loch Inver, on the western coast of Sutherlandshire, has also prosecuted, with success, the early fishery. This gentleman, last year, gained the premium at Hamburgh, offered for the first fish brought to port, and sold his barrels for 13*l.* each. Mr. Anderson sold, last year, 1200 barrels of the *early*, and 1000 of the later fishery; the former at 4*l.* or 5*l.* each, the latter at about 1*l.*; so great is the preference given to the former.

Each barrel contains between 700 and 900 fish. He encourages the men employed by offering them a bounty of 1*l*. for every barrel of the early fish which they catch; and this, as might be expected, attracts many candidates for the employment: no less than forty boats tendered their services last year, a number double of that which he required. The employment, which this fishing-establishment affords to the labouring classes, is one of the great advantages resulting from it. People from the mountains, as well as the coast, flock to it.

Mr. Anderson adopts the Dutch mode of preparing the fish for the market, explained by Donovan, and with the utmost success: as the inferior process used at Wick and other parts of Scotland, would be wholly inapplicable to fish in the early season. The greatest attention is paid to the proper cleansing and packing the fish. Every particle of unnecessary matter is removed; and the fish are so closely packed as to exclude air: and, as the cleansing is so complete as to remove all matter that would generate noxious effluvia, very little salt is necessary. The fish are, when packed, laid on their backs, not on their sides; and the barrels are of oak-wood: those used at Wick are chiefly of birch, produced from the coppices on the western coast. The frequent visits of the smacks, which resort to Loch Eribol, afford constant and ready communication with the London

market. Mr. Anderson objected to the bounty, for the same reason which prevailed at Wick: its tendency to attract adventurers to the fishery, unacquainted with the process of curing, adopting the practice of packing the fish in the open air, and endeavouring to correct the ill effects produced by sun and rain, by large quantities of salt; defects not likely to be corrected by the officers of government, as they are apt to perform the office of examination hastily and ignorantly.

There are salmon-fisheries in Loch Hope, and in the open sea, about twenty miles from the coast; and Mr. Anderson's observations induce him to suppose that these fish breed in the sea, like the herrings, as well as in the rivers. The prevalence of salmon produces a corresponding abundance of their destructive enemies, the seals. These animals breed in immense numbers, on a small rocky island off this coast, called The Stacks of Skerries. Mr. Anderson despatches a vessel annually there, for the purpose of slaughtering them. On the centre of the island is a lake, on the banks of which the seals are found basking in multitudes, accompanied by their young. As soon as they are alarmed by the sight of their enemies, they congregate, form a body, and scuttle away across the land to the sea; and to venture to oppose their march, and to attack them in front, would be fatal to the rash assailant who should

attempt it. The men divide, and charge the retreating column on both flanks with large sticks. A blow on the nose of the seal, the only vulnerable part of this animal, instantly destroys him. Nets are also used, though the mode is more expensive, in catching these animals; when entangled in the meshes, they find escape impossible, usually become enraged, and fall to tearing each other to pieces.

Mr. Anderson joins in the universal complaint, of the idle and loitering habits of the country-people; of their preference of jobs to regular work, and of their practice of relapsing, when possessed of a little money, the produce of occasional fits of industry, into their wonted indolence, till their money is spent. It is found necessary to procure workmen for the roads from the lowlands of Caithness and Sutherland, who, separated from old habits and connexions, and anxious to acquire as much by their industry as possible, prove valuable labourers*.

* Whilst it is notorious that the Highlanders could not be induced to work regularly in forming the Caledonian Canal, and that it became necessary to procure hands from other parts, they were found, as we are informed by Mr. Walker, (*Economical History of Hebrides*,) inferior to none in digging the navigation between the Forth and the Clyde, when their work was by the piece, and profitable according to their degrees of exertion: and that their persevering labours had been also conspicuous in the numerous colony settled in Blair Drummond Moss. The Highlander resembles the seaman, who is said never to sail well when he is off his object.

The practice of illicit distillation, in this part of the country, has been suppressed by the establishment of the Marquis of Stafford's distilleries. The removal of those colonies, which partly depended upon it for subsistence, from their sequestered haunts, is one obvious reason. The bad example of strangers has no influence in tempting the people to break the excellent rule of abstaining from fishing on Sunday.

The harbour of Loch Eribol frequently exhibits a scene of bustle strikingly contrasted with the dreariness of its shores. About seventy vessels, detained by the western gale, had just cleared out of it for the southward. Mr. Anderson was engaged in repairing his sloop, with materials furnished him by a wreck which occurred here lately. The crew had escaped in a remarkable manner. The inhabitants of Rispon were all eye-witnesses of the catastrophe. They observed, during a heavy gale from the north-west, a vessel in distress, with her sails partly set, as she was water-logged, and the crew could not manage her, rapidly approaching the harbour, and on the point of striking upon a small island opposite to Rispon. The crew, perceiving that destruction would be inevitable, if they remained in the vessel, betook themselves, just before she struck, to their boat, altogether nine in number. The captain stood at the stern, holding a cask of oil, which he sprinkled on the

waves to allay their fury*. The vessel was instantly shivered to fragments, and the boat, contrary to the expectation of all on shore, who expected its momentary disappearance, arrived safely. Mr. Anderson received most hospitably the crew, who proved to be Swedes.

As the walk from Rispon to Scourie was little less than forty miles, across an exceedingly rough tract of country, as those well know who have traversed it, it was necessary to start at day-break, to avoid being benighted in a cheerless and houseless wilderness.

The coast, along which we walked, is very rugged, but not lofty. We passed two villages inhabited by fishermen, colonized by people from the interior. Each cottage had its plot of ground, on which vegetables were raised. One of these villages was situated in much better soil than the other. In consideration of the difference, the tenants of the one pay each 3*l.* rent per annum; the inhabitants of the other were allowed their possessions rent free during the first seven years, and are now paying 30*s.* rent: they have good reason to rejoice in their change of situation. Their wages amount to two shillings per day; and their food consists of

* I have been told by a captain of an East India Company's vessel, that, when sailing with whale-ships, he has observed the sea in their wake perfectly smooth; whilst in that of the other ships in their company it was much agitated.

fish, potatoes, eggs, milk, and some meal. So inadequate is this portion of Scotland to supply its own consumption of meal, that Lord Reay imports annually to the value of 1000*l.*, which he sells to the people upon his estate, at the original cost.

Near the coast, a mountain-torrent descending to the sea, tumbles into a deep hole, and pursues its course through a subterranean passage, a hundred yards in length, into a large chasm called the Cave of Smo, enclosed by precipitous rocks, forming a small cove which embays the sea. The bed of the torrent must be reached by scrambling up the rock side, and entering through a hole in the side of the cave. Sir Walter Scott, as the people relate, performed this feat, notwithstanding his lameness, and explored the dark recess, a fit retreat for a Balfour, or Dirk Hatteraick.

The minister of Diurness and his lady waited breakfast at the Manse, and expressed great surprise at my refusing to join them in the previous dram. The population of this parish had been diminished by sheep-farming; and the destruction of the middle class of tenants was the evil complained of. The minister's account of the moral and religious state of his parish, the accuracy of which may be fully concluded from his known attention to his pastoral duties, agreed with that which Mr. Mackenzie had given me of Tongue. He stated that every family in his parish assembled

daily for the purpose of prayer: his knowledge of the neighbouring parish of Edderachillis led him to believe that the practice was equally general there; as, indeed, it was throughout this part of the country. Sailing and fishing on Sunday were unknown.

The minister acknowledged with gratitude the liberality of the British and Foreign Bible Society, in consequence of an application which he had made for copies of the Scriptures, grounded on the liability of the dangerous coasts of his parish (including Cape Rath,) to shipwrecks, and the opportunity afforded of thus supplying destitute mariners with the Word of God. He had twice provided foreign crews, unfortunately cast upon his shores, with copies of the Scriptures,—that of the Swedish vessel wrecked in Loch Eribol, and that of a Danish vessel which was stranded in a storm, near the Manse. He received all on board of the latter, at his house, but could not make himself understood by them: at length, discovering their nation, he placed in their hands a copy of the Danish Bible, and observed surprise and delight gleaming from their sorrowful countenances, at the sight of their native character, and gratitude on their lips for the sacred boon.

The Manse and Hamlet of Diurness are situated near a bay, forming part of the Kyle of Diurness, a long and narrow arm of the sea, the greater part

of which has become, owing to the receding of the waters, a mere sand-drift. The sheep-farms in the neighbourhood are large.

From Diurness we proceeded to the head of Loch Inchard,—sixteen miles,—soon reaching a gradual and tedious ascent of a boggy pass between two high ridges. The eastern, which is steep and bare, is the most northern point in that long range of mountains, seen from the Minsh, and though not of the conical and picturesque form, which distinguishes many of the others, is remarkable for its height, extent, and wintry bleakness. This district abounds in deer. A well-known cave is a favourite resort of the stalkers, who bring their bedding and provisions, and spend days in chasing their prey over the adjoining ridges.

Passing the head of Loch Inchard, we reached the shore of Loch Laxford,—about two miles from the head, to which point we scrambled along ledges of rock, and beds of shingle. The harbour of this bay is superior to that of Loch Inchard: its coasts are loftier, and it is embraced by a grand semi-circular range of mountains, of which the high ridges to north-east, and the sugar-loaf peak of the Stack to southward, form the principal features. We reached the bank of the river which rolls into Loch Laxford,—a broad and rapid torrent; and found some trouble in fording it, as it was leg deep, and the bottom, being covered with very slippery

sea-weed, rendered the footing unsafe, whilst a fall might have been irrecoverable. However, we, providentially, met with no casualty, and soon entered the district between this lake and Loch Scourie, which is without exception the most rugged, and least practicable which I had seen in Scotland. It is broken into a multitude of hills, so frequent that the route consists of a constant series of steep ascents and descents: the lakes in the hollows between the hills are equally numerous, and the ledges afforded by their precipitous banks often form the only pathway. The prospect is much contracted by the intersecting ridges. The scenery from about mid-way between Lochs Inchard and Laxford, to about a mile beyond Loch Laxford, displays considerable grandeur. Fully aware that no time was to be lost, the Highlander carrying my bag, who had been very dilatory at first, and required much urging, pushed nimbly forward at the bog-trot, breaking his silence only to ask whether I made a practice of travelling on Sunday, observing with great energy, that a guinea would not induce any man in the country to carry my bag on that day. We reached very comfortable quarters at a farm-house at Scourie.

Next morning I found the hostess's little boy, a hardy mountaineer, about five or six years of age, diligently studying my map: he was a proficient in geography, and already knew the name of every

mountain in the neighbourhood. We were joined at breakfast by the assistant minister of the parish of Edderachillis, on whom the whole duty devolves. He confirmed the statements which I had already received, of the universality of the practice of family prayers, and observed that though the influence of strangers introduced by the sheep-farmers, and especially the habits of Sunday-travelling amongst those and the English, had certainly proved prejudicial to the religious habits of the people, the effect had been partial.

This gentleman conversed on the subject of the Gaelic language, of which he is a thorough master, and spoke of a bard who died about thirty years ago, a native of Diurness, who “warbled his native wood-notes wild,” amidst the savage scenery of the Derry-moor Forest. His poetry, like that of Burns, which it is said to have much resembled, was both of the satirical and of the lighter kind. Of the former a large collection has been made, and will probably be published*. Of the latter, one was mentioned as displaying much wit. The scene was laid in a dark and rugged heath, on the con-

* They have since been published; the poet's name was Robert Mackay, or Rob Donn.—See *Quarterly Review*, No. lxxxix. Art. 2. He is regarded as the Burns of the North, as Duncan Ban Macintyre is of the South Highlands; and, indeed, their poems form the only two miscellaneous collections of note of Gaelic poetry.—*Anderson's Guide*.

finer of Ben Hope; and the subject was the mutual complaints of husbands and wives, whose quarrels afforded the poet fine scope for his talent; and the arbiter was a god, placed on the summit of the mountain.

The village of Scourie consists of three or four good houses, and several huts inhabited by the people removed from the interior. The neighbouring Isle of Handa affords, perhaps, the best station off this coast for surveying the magnificent rampart of mountains which the western coast of Sutherland opposes to the swell of the Minsh. The outwork on the edge of the sea, though not lofty, is very rugged and precipitous; and its continued line to southward is broken by a numerous cluster of islands, beyond which the promontory of Rhu Stoir stretches far to westward, distinguished, at its extreme point, by a needle-rock, shaped like an obelisk, somewhat detached from it. The rocks, which guard the entrance of Loch Laxford, impart a bolder character to the coast to northward; and the bleak and lofty heights rising beyond them, and the sugar-loaf hill of Assynt to southward, and several other intermediate peaks, form a continued but irregular chain, extending at least seventy miles in length, towering above a wilderness of subordinate ridges, piled one on another in chaotic confusion. Scattered gleams of sunshine illuminated the tops of the nearer ridges, heightening by

contrast the dark gloom cast over the higher and more distant by a canopy of black clouds, which reposed in stillness on their summits, without obscuring their picturesque outline.

The rocks of Handa are frequented by vast multitudes of sea-fowl. The only human inhabitants of this island are a shepherd and his family, who take charge of the few cattle which it rears. I must not omit mentioning an amusing circumstance, incidental to insular life, which happened to this man last Christmas: he had invited at that season, a party of friends from the adjoining coast to the wedding of his daughter, and provided for their entertainment an ample feast,—plenty of whisky, and a piper to promote the general merriment. The guests soon became too busy to mind the brewing of a storm, which at length rendered it impossible for any boat to quit the shore. The only accommodations in the island were a cottage and an out-house, into which bridegroom, bride, and guests, crowded hastily, and passed five tedious days and nights. Whilst the whisky lasted, they submitted with tolerable resignation to their fate, but when this resource failed, they began to contemplate, with unmitigated horror, the prospect of exhausted provisions, and received no comfort from the unavailing exertions of the poor piper. Had the storm lasted much longer, the marriage-feast might have had a tragic close.

The following conversation, characteristic of the people of this part of the country, passed between me and my guide, a boy, on the walk from Scourie to Loch Badcol. Pausing, he asked me, as the guide of yesterday had done, whether I travelled on Sunday?—and, on being interrogated as to his reason for putting this question, he replied, “Because no one will carry your bag for you; you must carry it yourself, if you travel tomorrow. You might perhaps induce some one to do it by the offer of lucre; but he would not be permitted.” “Who would interfere?” “Why Mr. Gordon, or any other minister, to be sure.” “How would he enforce his prohibition?” “Why by making the man who disobeyed it stand in church (*i. e.* do penance): and he would do quite right.” The tone which the boy assumed at the conclusion of the last sentence, implied a resolute submission to the authority of his minister, and surprise at my not anticipating it.

In Sutherlandshire, especially the western part of the county, being remote, and hitherto comparatively little visited by strangers, the habits and feelings of the people retain much of their primitive simplicity, and more especially in regard to religion and to church-discipline. The authority of the Kirk is undisturbed by dissent: my guide’s peremptory assertion of its right of inflicting ecclesiastical penalties for transgression affords some proof of its ascendancy. The parochial jurisdiction is often,

however, rather oligarchical than monarchical: the elders and leading parishioners frequently assume the prerogative of prescribing and regulating the minister's doctrine, and calling him to rigorous account for any deviation from it: and they thus hold him in a sort of thralldom, by no means limited to mere doctrinal matters. A minister, whom I met in the south of Scotland, described to me with much feeling the annoyance to which he had been subjected by such control, during some years in which he had held a parochial charge in Sutherlandshire. The despotism exercised occasionally by the lay leaders over their ministers in this county is complained of in the Statistical Survey. This overstrained jurisdiction of the parishioners; the *abuse* of the system of discipline adopted in the Scottish church, which assigns to laymen a share of ecclesiastical authority, is by no means confined to Sutherlandshire.

The proofs, which have been offered of the prevalence of domestic worship among the Scottish peasantry, proves that Burns's exquisite picture in his "Cottar's Saturday Night," is not a poetical fiction, but drawn from living reality *. The com-

* It may be said of the Highlander as it has been said of the Piedmontese:—

“Tho' rugged the mountain, ungenial the soil,
And the food of the day be procured by its toil,
Yet how sweet is the labour, inviting to rest,
And how grateful the food when by piety blest!”

parative neglect of this admirable practice among the upper classes, both in Scotland and England, now happily much diminishing, has yet spread but little its baneful influence among the lower, in Scotland. The religion of their forefathers was riveted to their bosoms by persecution, as well as by the tenacious attachment to hereditary creeds, and practices, which characterizes these people. It is to be regretted that the somewhat diminished strictness, in regard to the Sabbath, now complained of in these regions, is partly attributed to the example of the English sheep-farmers, who had been educated in a different school; and also to the occasional desecration of the sacred day by English travellers, in not observing it as a day of rest. The rigid questioning of my guides, as to my practice on this head, was caused by the soreness produced in their minds by a recent instance of such reprehensible conduct. Our countrymen, who vindicate Sunday-travelling on the Continent, by pleading the propriety of conforming to the customs of the countries which they visit, should, for consistency's sake, abstain from it in Scotland.

I do not pretend to justify the rigorous mode of observing the Sabbath occasionally adopted in Scotland, or the means sometimes resorted to for enforcing it. It would be difficult to comprehend by what sanction the more strict among the people vindicate their prohibition of a walk on Sunday,

except to church; nay, even forbid a man a stroll in his own garden, on that day. The Sabbath day's journey, implied in the exception admitted, is, however, a term of very various signification in different parts of Scotland; indicating, in the Lowlands, usually a moderate walk, but in the Highlands and Islands, sometimes more than a day's journey, or voyage not always practicable. A minister condemned in strong terms the conduct of a gentleman whom I had just visited, in not regularly attending church, though separated from it by fifteen miles of sea. So far is the prohibitory system carried, that although "cleanliness" has been pronounced in Holy Writ to be "next to godliness," the act of shaving on Sunday morning is offensive in some parts of Scotland. A clergyman assured me that rather than excite displeasure by the performance of such an operation on Sunday, he accomplished it late on Saturday evening.

The *national* observance of any religious rite or custom, though eminently beneficial, and conducive in the best sense of the word to the glory of a country, is necessarily not without its attendant disadvantage. Fashion will induce some to comply, from formality, hypocrisy, or superstition; and the Scotch, like their brethren of other nations and creeds, are not exempt from the charge of forgetting, in their attention to the ceremonial, a due regard to the moral obligations of the law ordaining

the observance of the Sabbath. Though they very properly refuse labour on Sunday, even when tempted to it by ample inducements, they are not always so scrupulous about indulging in idleness, or sometimes drinking.

One instance occurs to my recollection, of a breach of that golden rule of Holy Writ which enjoins "mercy rather than sacrifice." A large whale, whose jaw-bone adorns the garden-gate of a laird whom I visited, near Loch Linnhe, got stranded on the shore of that arm of the sea late on Saturday evening. The people of the neighbourhood all flocked to the prey; but finding that there would not be time sufficient for the destruction and subsequent spoliation of the animal before Sunday morning, they lashed their prisoner to a large tree till Monday, viewing him during the interval, tossing, and bellowing in the shoal-water in which he was prolonging his miserable existence.

The *compulsory* observance of the Sabbath day, enforced not only by ecclesiastical authority, and national or local usage, but by the arbitrary and summary jurisdiction of the people, is a practice more peculiar to Scotland. A well-known Ben Nevis guide had been persuaded by two Englishmen to carry a bag for them to Inverness, on Sunday: as he was passing through Glen Urquhart, while the people were assembling at church, he was seized, and carried also thither, and heard some

pointed denunciations against Sabbath-breaking, the minister having been previously apprized of the stranger's presence, and the occasion of it. From church, he was conveyed to the residence of a respectable parishioner, who entertained him very hospitably, and at midnight returned him his bag, and suffered him to pursue his journey.

Opposite extremes partly counteract and partly beget each other. The occasionally extravagant and unduly rigorous observance of the Sabbath in Scotland, produces, by affording something like a pretext for, remissness and irreverence on this head among some persons, especially of the upper classes, whose intercourse with England, or superiority to popular prejudices, enables them to perceive the errors of their countrymen, without sufficiently appreciating the virtues of which these errors are the abuse. To Scotland, whatever these errors may be, must certainly be assigned the pre-eminence over every other part of the kingdom, perhaps of the world, in the due adherence to the spirit as well as the letter of the sacred injunctions respecting the observance of the Sabbath. The justice of this remark may be verified by any one who chances to pass Sunday in a large town in Scotland. The streets, empty and deserted during the early hours of morning, are suddenly, as the hour of divine service approaches, thronged with vast multitudes, hastening in perfect stillness,

obviously bent on the solemn purpose for which they are congregating, to their respective places of worship. As the churches fill, the town assumes once more the appearance of a city of the dead; and after the conclusion of public worship, the people return to their homes as decorously as on their repairing to the celebration of it. In the evening, the suburbs and fields in the neighbourhood may be seen crowded with orderly groups, enjoying the recreation which fresh air and the contemplation of nature afford: and not endeavouring to banish, by gregarious dissipation, the seriousness produced by the solemnity of which they had partaken. Such has been Scotland: may she long bear engraven on her front, in this respect, though in others its impress may be fast wearing away, the stamp of the hallowed signet of antiquity.

Taking a boat at Loch Badcol, I proceeded along the coast to Kyle Scowie. The scenery of this arm of the sea is grand, especially at its upper part. The house of a gentleman, formerly in the army, who rents one of the Marquis of Stafford's sheep-farms, near Loch Ardvar, afforded me a very comfortable abode during Sunday. The people of this neighbourhood have suffered from the unfortunate caprice of the herrings, which formerly frequented the Kyle, giving employment, twenty years ago, sometimes to two hundred fishing-

vessels, and often to sixty or seventy since that period. But those fish have since entirely forsaken this part of the coast. The lobsters which abound here are carried off by the Orkneymen, who take them in boats of fourteen feet keel, and sell them to the smacks. Habit is a main-spring of enterprise. These very islanders, who do not attempt to imitate and share the profits of strangers in their own deep-sea fishery, will explore in boats the western coast of Scotland, and in turn rob the more indolent natives of their valuable staple. The coast of Pembrokeshire affords a similar instance to those which have been mentioned, of the natives thus surrendering their fishery to strangers, the Brixham trawlers*.

A good cheese, of excellent quality, is produced here, by an intermixture of the milk of the sheep, the goat, and the cow. The old habits and superstitions of the people are fast on the wane; the fiddler has displaced the piper, and little vestige of the second sight can be traced. My host remem-

* It has been already mentioned, that the French fishermen were content with purchasing fish of the Brixham boats, till prevented by their own custom-house officers. The French may now be seen carrying off the herrings under the cliffs of Dover, whilst the men of Deal or Dover make no effort to dispute the prize with them. The pilotage, now affording but scanty remuneration, and other employment supplied by the shipping, may have induced the relinquishment of the fishery on the part of these people. (1835.)

bered one old man who professed it. It was his practice to start up occasionally when on a visit in a cottage, and declare that he beheld the fearful vision. But his credit gradually declined, as it was discovered that his prognostications of good or evil fortune, were regulated by the treatment of his hosts.

Lord Stafford's land is leased in large farms, for nineteen and twenty-one years, and to cottars for seven years, or at will. The tenants of the large farms are chiefly from Northumberland and the Lowlands of Scotland. The practice adopted by these strangers, of taking a *morning*, i. e. early breakfast, at six o'clock, consisting of milk and porridge, as a prelude to a more substantial meal at nine, astonishes the Highlander, who is satisfied with a "dram." The Englishman carries with him, wherever he goes, his sturdy appetite for substantial food.

Innovation is rapidly spreading to the remotest extremities of Scotland. The advantages resulting from the revolution of habits and manners are not without their concomitant evils. But the natives naturally enough disposed to lament that "old times are changed, old manners gone," are too ready to exaggerate the latter. Among these, is enumerated the alleged decline of military spirit, of which I heard more frequent complaint in Sutherlandshire than in any other part of Scotland: but

this has resulted from the single circumstance that military service is very little required in time of peace. The old Highland system had undergone its principal change before the commencement of the last war, and yet never was the martial spirit of the Scotch, whether Lowlanders or Highlanders, more distinguished than during its continuance: though educated in a different school, and inheriting different habits, the soldiers of these different tribes might fairly assert an equal claim to the laurels which they won:

.....In each well-foughten field,
We kept together in our chivalry.

The mountaineer is not now compelled to make his Winter's bed on the heath, and to dip his plaid in water, that when frozen it may shield him from the external cold, and to brave with bare knees the alterations of climate, or to be ready at the whistle of a leader, or the challenge of an enemy, to grasp his claymore or his dagger, and to dye his fields or his board with blood. But he may still, though following in an orderly and quiet manner, the pursuits of industry, hold himself in readiness to defend his country at the call of danger, and submit to all the rules of military discipline: and there can be little doubt that the habits of a well-regulated community are better calculated to increase the physical strength and moral energy of a people, and to fit them for the exigencies of regular war,

than the lawless customs of tribes subject only to their own laws, however favourable these may be to sudden and desperate efforts. Peace is apt to produce effeminacy, and it ought to be counteracted by the whole tendency of education ; but this vice can never unnerve the mountaineers, to whom privation, fatigue, and danger, are necessarily habitual from childhood*.

Antiquity has, however, found champions resolved to make a last stand in its defence. Sir Walter Scott did not probably foresee, when he re-peopled his native land with the mighty dead of former ages, that he should not only imbue the living generation with the spirit of their forefathers, but induce them to re-assume the garb of the Gael, which had been gradually supplanted by the monkey fashions of French tailors. The amiable and persevering enthusiasm of General Stewart of Garth has seconded the ardour of the poet.

The dress having been restored to the Highland regiments, after the use of it had been prohibited

* It has been observed by Sir Walter Scott, and to none but a soldier were the military character and requirements of military service better known than to this martial writer, whose animating strains contributed in no slight degree to fan the flame of British heroism at its hour of greatest need, at the commencement and during the progress of the late war, that "probably no peasant of Europe is sooner able to adapt himself to military discipline than the Scotchman, who is usually prudent enough to consider that it is only mutual co-operation and compliance with orders which can make numbers effectual."—*Tales of my Grandfather*.

by law, and hence immortalized by their achievements in all quarters of the globe, has thus never become obsolete ; and many of the Highland lairds now habitually wear it. I have found myself several times at table almost the only individual not clad in it. The lairds sometimes encourage their tenants to imitate their example by rewards ; but their success is very partial ; and except at a festival, or fair, the kilt is rarely, if ever, seen in the Northern Highlands. The Celtic Society has lent its powerful assistance to the lairds' efforts, and the muster of the clans at Edinburgh, in their respective tartans, under royal sanction, the assumption of the dress by the monarch* himself, and by Sir Walter Scott, supplied a potent stimulant to

* George the Fourth was much censured at Glasgow for the compliment which he paid, on this occasion, to the Highlanders ; and it was observed that his Majesty might as reasonably have appeared at St. James's in an old Welsh dress, as at Holyrood House in an antiquated costume of a fragment of the Scottish population. The burden of the offence was, however, laid on the shoulders of Sir Walter Scott, who, it was said, "*ought to have known better ;*" and the monarch was held, comparatively, irresponsible ; no less than the courtly and good-humoured alderman of the city of London, who, on the same occasion, invested his portly form in the airy garb of a mountaineer. An elderly lady of ancient family in the Highlands, on hearing me mention the observations of the worthy citizens of Glasgow, exclaimed with great emphasis, "The Lowlanders had no reason for the dissatisfaction which they expressed : they did not fight for Prince Charles : the Highlanders did ; and the King knew that they would fight for him under similar circumstances."

the spreading taste. The most zealous advocates for the Highland dress, are often young Englishmen who have become naturalized in Scotland, and are usually much fired by the novelty, as well as charms of a mountain life. Nor must be forgotten a race of youthful aspirants of the same stamp,—the students of English universities,—who annually seek learned retirement and healthy exercise, in the Scottish Highlands, and who deem it right occasionally to assume the supposed dress of the land in which they sojourn. The fashion will have its day, and then yield to the operation of the causes which have gradually produced its original decay. The splendid dress in question was adapted to a state of society entirely different from the present: to pedestrians,—before roads were made, and horses ridden,—to men compelled to bear arms in self-defence, and to wear the distinguishing garb of the tribe or clan to which they belonged, and from which they derived their protection.

In adverting to the stand made in Scotland on behalf of ancient customs, it would be unpardonable not to allude to the solitary attempt of one individual to recover the shadow of that authority which has been enjoyed by his ancestors. But Macdonell of Glengarry is no more; and no successor has been found to harbour the phantom of *chieftainship*, the familiar spirit of that ardent clansman's waking dreams.

Nobler objects than the revival of an ancient dress, or of obsolete power, have engaged the attention of the Celtic and other Highland societies, and have been promoted by the meeting at St. Fillan's and elsewhere,—the preservation of the ancient language and music of the country, and the encouragement of manly games and exercises.

Upon these topics, as they have occupied much attention, and excited much controversy in Scotland, and elsewhere, I shall offer a few observations. To preserve the literary records of a language, as illustrative of feelings, opinions, and customs, is a laudable object; but to encourage, by direct efforts, the use of a language which is not employed as the medium of national intercourse, of legal proceedings, of political intelligence, or of literary information, is to perpetuate ignorance, prejudice, and error. To urge the antiquity, or intrinsic merit of a language in vindication of such object, is to sacrifice to language almost all that constitutes its value,—the end to the means.

I will not assert that the preservation of a language, linking a people by its idiom, its tones, and the local and traditionary associations which it perpetuates, to the land or to the times and customs of their forefathers, is without its use: inasmuch as it tends to counteract the restless propensity of the human mind to change. Such a result of the original multiplication of languages, may have

been contemplated by Supreme Wisdom, when rendering evil subservient to good, as an antidote to the diffusiveness of evil and a preventive of that anarchy which might have ensued, had all nations been liable, by the use of a single language, to be actuated, to a certain extent, by the same impulses. There is no doubt that the Celtic languages of Great Britain have proved a barrier protecting a large portion of the population of these islands from revolutionary opinions. But after giving due weight to this important consideration, I cannot deem it a counterpoise, in the case of the Highlands, to the evils resulting from their exclusion from a participation in the general benefits of national intercourse.

The contrary and now exploded system of forcing these benefits on a people, or rather of effecting their subordination to government by attempting to extirpate their language, is a remnant of political bigotry on which animadversion would be wasted, and of which we are now reaping the bitter fruits in Ireland.

The condemnation of direct efforts to perpetuate the Gaelic language, for its own sake, cannot possibly apply to those laudable efforts to supply the population by whom that language is exclusively spoken, with education and with literature. The result of these efforts will be to promote a taste for general knowledge, of which the High-

landers are fully susceptible, and probably to accelerate, instead of retarding the general use of the English language, a consummation to which the social and political changes which the Highlands are undergoing are progressively conducting*.

One effect of the diffusion of literature among the Highlanders, has been to supersede that traditional knowledge for which these people were formerly remarkable, and the retention of which called forth extraordinary efforts of memory, the effect of the necessity of depending, in the absence of books, on the exercise of that faculty, for the legendary, genealogical, and religious lore so much prized by them.

It has been justly regretted that no decided effort has been made to collect and record the traditional lore current among the people, ere the traces of it become gradually more and more obliterated. It would tend to preserve to the poet and the moralist ample and valuable materials: to illustrate manners, forms of government, and of society, which have been supplanted by a new order of things; and though its deficiency of chronological reference and arrangement would prevent it supplying in any measure the place of history, to illustrate it.

* See Appendix, Note I.

Traditions receive perpetual confirmation from recent discoveries. A Highland proprietor who was obliged to trace his pedigree during several generations, in order to establish a title of importance, informed me that he had invariably found the traditionary reminiscences of his ancestors current among the people, corroborated by the evidence deduced from legal documents. The poetry of the Highlanders has been, in a great measure collected and preserved by the Highland Society, but the interesting legends and traditions are passing unnoticed into oblivion.

On the score of its encroachment on the province of memory and of tradition, education has been impugned by the abettors of the ancient system. But to what lengths will prejudice urge the mind infected by it! Shall we, after having received the free use of our limbs, regret the loss of the crutch?

The preservation of the ancient music of the Highlands, is a laudable object; it promotes innocent amusement, and cherishes those recollections and associations which tend to elevate the mind above sensual gratifications, where it is not actually employed in ministering to them. The merit of the bagpipe, as an instrument of music, is matter of taste: to be appreciated it should be heard on its native hills, when, according to the direction in which it is turned, it produces, by the varying

loudness of its animating tones, all the effect of the advance or retreat of martial bands. Pipers are now, as formerly, much in the service of the Highland lairds, entertaining their guests during dinner. They carry sometimes, on the shoulder, a banner, on which are emblazoned the armorial bearings of the family.

Public amusements, and manly games and exercises, calculated to promote the physical force, as well as the contentment and cheerfulness of the people; another object of societies and public meetings, as well as of the gentry, cannot be deprecated unless when the abuse of them predominates over the advantages to be derived from them. The assemblage of the villagers at a cricket-match, and a game of football, hockey, or shinty, if not accompanied with intoxication, is as innocent as the prize-fight is degrading, or the race-course destructive of the morals both of the upper and lower classes. Scotland protests against the former of these, as beneath the dignity of a rational, and unworthy of the feelings of a humane and brave people; and it were well for the country, if the southern practice of horse-racing had not extended to the north. Unfortunately it has found its way into Aberdeenshire, and has also been introduced at the great northern meeting at Inverness, at which several of the neighbouring lairds ride their own horses, undergoing regular training for the purpose. The trans-

formation of the descendants of chieftains into jockeys consummates, with a vengeance, the revolution of ancient manners*.

The Highland gentry need no additional incentive to spending their money. Their natural propensity, strengthened by hereditary custom, by their social position, and yet more by the celebrity and notoriety which their country, their names, families, and mode of life, have derived from the productions of the most popular author of the day, and a host of other writers, is unquestionably to extravagance. To this vice, for such it must be called, their hospitality tends much: a virtue engrained in the heart of the Highlander, and constituting one of the most striking features of his remarkable character, when not indulged to excess. But the Highland gentry have not sufficiently regarded this qualification. Johnson should have said of Scotland, that hospitality *ought to be*, rather than that it *is*, in the inverse ratio to the demand for it. The Highland gentry have been too generously backward in admitting this truth; and they have endeavoured to persevere in imparting the gra-

* I find that races are not novel in the Highlands. "They were in use, in Inverness, as far back as 1662, and were then an ancient custom: but I leave it to better political economists to point out the probable effects of the union of Newmarket with the wilds of Dunachroy."—*Anderson's Prize Essay, Transactions of Highland Society*, Vol. ii.

tification, and maintaining the credit, of keeping open house, acquired when the visits of travellers were 'few and far between,' even after land and sea have swarmed with myriads of these intruders. Some lairds, who resided in the most frequented routes, have been consequently ruined by their endeavours to adapt means, necessarily limited, to perpetually increasing demands. Reflections on the excessive hospitality of our northern countrymen come, perhaps, with an ill grace from Englishmen, who of all people are the most indebted to it. On the other hand it must be allowed, that for this very reason, unless they be wholly destitute of gratitude towards those who have shown them kindness, and, to use the poet's language,—

"From memory erase

The benefits of former days,"

they are best capable of appreciating and deploring it.

The distinction conferred on the Highland lairds by the literature of the day has tempted them to maintain, at all cost, the hereditary dignity derived from their lineage and patrimonial possessions; whilst many of the southern interlopers have adopted their notions enthusiastically, and emulated their expensive mode of living. Hereditary estates, as well as habits, are sometimes retained or recovered, without adequate means of holding or repurchasing them: and I have heard a laird

reproached because he had neglected an opportunity of buying an estate which had once belonged to an ancestor, though the property which he already possessed was encumbered.

The disinclination to engage in trade, indicative of the aristocratic feeling of the Highland gentry, precludes them much from that mode of repairing their fortunes; whilst the army, rich in honour, but poor in pelf, has been their chief, and in a pecuniary point of view, unprofitable resource. To their younger sons, the service of the East India Company, civil or military, of which Scotland has secured and enjoyed a right ample share, has opened a vast and productive field of enterprise and wealth.

The result of extravagance, for which no adequate provision could be supplied, has been an enormous transfer of property. A laird in one of the Western Isles, well conversant in the state of property in that quarter, calculates that there is even now a million and a half of property on sale in the Western parts of Scotland.

Thus hereditary succession, which has been perpetuated perhaps more regularly in Scotland*

* General Stewart states, that the heirs of eighteen chiefs who fought at Bannockburn, in 1314, were, at the commencement of this century, in possession of their estates. I saw a small house on the bank of the Dee, near Aberdeen, occupied by a family who had possessed the land on which it stood during 800 years. Bruce, the Abyssinian traveller, mentions

than in any other country, transmitting in uninterrupted descent the name and blood, and often the valour and virtue of remote ancestors to the present age, has been more irretrievably undermined by the affluence, and luxury engendered by peace, and security, than by the misrule, warfare, and confiscations of preceding centuries.

The purchasers are usually merchants of Glasgow, and other towns, who frequently reside on the estates of which they have become possessed, and fully, by their conduct, verify the remark of Burke, that commercial men show the greatest spirit, and can afford most in the cultivation of land. East Indians and half-pay officers have also obtained, in smaller portions, a large share of Highland and Insular property, often selecting it in the neighbourhood of their birth and early youth,—a gratifying proof of the strength of local attachment, and hereditary predilections.

Actuated by various inducements to extravagance, the Scottish gentry needed not the additional incentive of the turf. Gambling, inseparable from this amusement, has already produced its disastrous effects. A gentleman of acknowledged high authority on matters of property, expressed to me his in a memoir of his life, in his own hand-writing, preserved at Kinnaird House, near the Firth of Forth, that that edifice had been rebuilt, on the same spot, thrice by his ancestors and himself.

persuasion, that there were not three individuals on the turf, north of the Tweed, whose estates were not in trust.

The more manly and far less objectionable amusement of fox-hunting, has not yet extended further northward than Aberdeenshire: indeed the country offers physical impediments to its progress. Beyond the above-mentioned limit, the fox still enjoys the distinction of being placed at the head of destructive vermin, and is persecuted by all possible methods.

On my arrival at the house of a worthy and aged baronet, residing near Elgin, I found the whole garrison, mine host included, under arms; and every avenue to the house, and farm-yard, guarded by the members of the family, retainers, teachers, and servants, carrying muskets, or fowling-pieces, awaiting in silent and anxious expectation, the arrival of one of these depredators, of whose wary approach to the poultry-yard, which he had already repeatedly plundered, intelligence had reached head-quarters.

Fox-hunting in the northern and western parts of Scotland, is a separate vocation. I met in Cantyre, in the latitude and neighbourhood of Glasgow, a celebrated veteran of this school, whose boast it was,—a boast for which he would have been outlawed in England,—that he had, in the course of half a century, succeeded in extirpating

the foxes in that peninsula. He was employed when I saw him, in leading his victorious train of terriers, lurchers, and curs of various sorts, followed by a crowd of idle urchins, against rabbits and vermin of inferior note. Among the ancient monuments in the cemetery of the monastery of Saddael, may be seen a tomb-stone, on which this individual has recorded the following simple inscription:—
“*Malcolm, fox-hunter, in Cantyre, erected this to the memory of his wife*.*”

* *Fox-money* was formerly raised by subscription, to be distributed amongst those who destroyed these animals, in a district where there was no professed fox-hunter.—*Statistical Survey.*

CHAPTER XV.

ASSYNT, ULLAPOOL, HERRING FISHERY, BEN
 WYVIS, DINGWALL, CROMARTY BAY, RIVER
 CONAN, SALMON FISHERY, BEAULEY, CASTLE
 DOWNIE, LOCH-NESS, FALL OF FOYERS.

THE Kirk of Assynt is fifteen miles distant from Scourie. A parliamentary church is building for the supply of a population of 1000 persons, who are situated at a still greater distance from it. Notwithstanding the destitution of spiritual superintendence in this large and populous parish, it contains but one dissenter: the reason assigned for this circumstance here, as elsewhere, in these vast districts, which dissent has little penetrated, is that the people are too poor to defray the expense of spiritual instruction.

Medical aid is still less within reach, being sought, when needed, on the eastern coast. As it was impossible to attend church, my host read to his family a sermon of Dr. John Erskine; his library consisted chiefly of religious books. We ascended a hill above his house, commanding an extensive view of the towering peaks of Coy Craig, and of the two branches of the Kyle. The sides of this hill were not long ago covered with wood.

The road to Assynt passes under the precipitous ridges of Coy Craig, and falls in, at the lake side, with the yet unfinished road from Bonar Bridge to Loch Inver, which will establish the hitherto irregular communication between the eastern and western coasts of Scotland. The shores and inlets of Loch Assynt, as well as the adjoining hills, are sprinkled with copse, and the fine heights of Coy Craig and Ben Ewe are striking objects from them.

The old castle of Ardvrack stands on a small rocky promontory, on the north side of the lake, once defended by cannon, which have been found buried, either by accident or design; the proprietor intends to dig them up. The keep and part of the ruined apartments still exist. This castle belonged anciently to the Macleods, who sold it to the Mackenzies of Seaforth, of whom the Sutherland family purchased it; and the Mackenzie clan are said to have been so indignant at the transfer, that they attacked and burnt it. The last of the Mackenzies was a man of gigantic stature. It was the discovery of a bone, which the Mackenzies claimed as his, that caused the battle in the churchyard of Assynt, which was related in a former part of these Sketches. Within gunshot of the castle, on the shore of the lake, stands an ancient, half-ruined mansion, containing a double set of apartments, and presenting a handsome front of two

rows of windows, six in each. A furious feud once raged between the family who inhabited this mansion, and their neighbours at the castle.

The church of Assynt is at the head of the lake, and near it is the manse, where I found ample and cordial hospitality. The minister was zealously promoting education in his parish, finding great eagerness for it. In proof of this he stated that old women might be seen at the schools learning in the same class with their daughters, and that the more learned, who were acquainted with English, were in the habit of translating passages into Gaelic, for the use of their relatives and neighbours. The minister assured me that family prayer was universal in his parish.

Dr. Ross, the minister of the neighbouring parish of Loch Broom, the most extensive in Scotland, is considered one of the best Gaelic scholars of which the north can boast.

From Assynt to Ullapool is twenty-eight miles. My enlarging in description of the scenery of this walk may be excused by its merits, and by the additional circumstance that it has escaped the notice of travellers. Another inducement to do so is afforded by my wish to rescue these regions from the anathema of Dr. Macculloch, who summarily pronounces the whole western mountainous country, as far as Cape Rath, to be scarcely accessible to the traveller, and to be destitute of scenery which

might repay him for the very severe fatigue which it will cost him to explore it. (Vol. II., p. 236.) Seven miles from Assynt, I quitted the new road, taking a southern direction: and soon enjoyed, from the summit of a pass, a singularly-grand prospect. To south-west appeared a spacious lake, embosomed in hills, sprinkled with numerous islands, winding underneath the base of Coul More, a mountain broken into three peaks, the central of which is conical, and much resembles Skiddaw. Another mountain, equally picturesque, towers over its shoulder. As we advanced, the further part of the lake opened in all its expanse on the river, stretching to the base of Soul Vain, or the Sugar-loaf Hill, lofty, abrupt, and rounded at its summit. The dreariness of the country, through which our track led us, was pleasantly relieved by a well-cultivated and well-peopled valley.

From the summit of the next pass which we reached, the noble peaks of Coul More were disclosed on the right, separated from Coul Beg, appearing further southward, by a lake over which the Sugar-loaf Hill towered in the distance, occupying a new and highly-picturesque relative position in reference to the other mountains. On our approaching Coul Beg a few miles further on, a fine cluster of mountains, called in the Gaelic language by a name signifying the Bird's-hill, came into view; between which and Coul Beg rises the Stack,

a conical mountain in a line with the Sugar-loaf, to which it has a close resemblance, both in its shape, and in its grouping with the higher inland mountains. The two ranges, ranking in height with the mountains of Sky and Arran, form that complete rampart of which I surveyed a portion from the Isle of Handa, rising from the sea in the shape of a glacis, defended from its tempestuous inroads by a bold and rugged outwork. The level of the country to eastward is much elevated, and very dreary. About seven miles from Ullapool, we entered an extensive green valley, sprinkled with cottages, through which a mountain-river flows to the sea, which now became visible, gemmed with islands of which Martin is the principal, backed by the bold promontory separating the greater from the lesser Loch Broom. The cottages were wretched: none of the people spoke English. We scrambled hence up the side of a nearly precipitous ridge: and then following the course of a torrent which forms some fine cataracts, and descending into the valley of Strath Kenard by fording a river, gained the road, and ascended the opposite mountain, from whence we perceived Ullapool, a large, but compactly built village, situated on a cultivated level plain, on the bank of the greater Loch Broom.

The inn at Ullapool might pass for an old deserted manor-house, promising well from its ex-

terior, and the size of its apartments, but indicating better days by their half-ruined state. The condition of the inn is mournfully emblematic of the generally declining state of the village. Its neat, commodious, tiled houses, are partly forsaken; and the large store-houses erected for the fishery are disused. Fishing-stations were formed with great expectations of profit by the British Fishing Company, at Ullapool, Tanera, and Loch Torridon, on the western coast. Both the latter have failed. Ullapool, though it has much declined, still carries on a trifling fishery. The cause of the unfortunate result of these speculations, has been the disappearance of the fish, which are said to have frequented these bays formerly in such vast shoals as almost to choke the sea, but now arrive seldom, and in small detachments.

The alleged capricious movements of the herrings are not satisfactorily accounted for. They have been ascribed to the introduction of steam-vessels, but without reason: for Loch Fine, whose waters are perpetually molested by paddles, abounds in herrings; whilst the bays on this coast, which steam-vessels have not disturbed, have been deserted by these fish. The disappearance of the herrings at Ullapool, being contemporaneous with the erection of the village and fishing-establishment, has been by some persons attributed to the noise occasioned by the progress of the work. The

occurrence of a similar phenomenon on the coast of Donegal, when the Right Hon. Burton Conyngham, assisted by a grant from the Irish parliament, formed a fishing-establishment, and laid down roads at considerable expense, being subsequent to the completion of the undertaking, has been generally explained in the same manner *: and it is remarkable that a corresponding result seemed to follow from the erection of fishing-establishments on the coast of Sweden, south of Gottenburg; the herrings which previously abounded in the adjacent sea, having about that time deserted it; and, according to one of the most eminent naturalists of that country, in consequence of the disturbance which they had experienced. Facts certainly bear out this mode of accounting for the phenomenon. But on the other hand, it will not explain the discontinuance of the visits of the herrings to places in which fishing-establishments have not been formed; and the circumstance of the fish having not returned to their old haunts long after the coasts have resumed their former stillness and desolation.

Although the occasional movements of these fish may be mysterious, little doubt is now entertained respecting the general course and purpose of their migration.

* Wakefield's *Ireland*.

Observation has proved the absurdity of that old notion, which still occasionally finds its way into print, having got too great a hold on the popular imagination to be at once eradicated, that the herrings absconded annually from that great supposed emporium of fish as well as of men, the north, and being broken into two grand divisions, by the intervention of the Shetland Isles, invested the coasts of Great Britain, and then returned again to the cold latitudes from which they issued. It is now ascertained that these fish are migratory, only as they change their abode from deep to shallow water, for the purpose of depositing their spawn, and again to deep water when this process is terminated. It is creditable to the accuracy of observation of some of the correspondents whose reports are given in the *Statistical Survey*, that they advanced this opinion respecting the herrings at a time when the visionary theory which has been adverted to was little disputed. Their statement has been confirmed by the discoveries of naturalists, and especially the valuable testimony of Mr. Neilson, the most eminent living naturalist of Sweden, who has made the habits of the herring the object of his particular study. In prosecuting his researches respecting these fish, he enjoyed singular advantages, having been deputed by the Swedish government to survey the coast of Norway for the purpose. He has ascertained that the herrings are

of distinct species in the different latitudes in which they are found, whether in the Gulf of Bothnia, in the Cattegat, or on the western coast of Norway; and as these distinct species do not intermingle, their only movements can be between deep and shallow water, according to the season*.

In reference to the local movements of the herrings on the British coast, I would venture the conjecture that, in subordination to the main purpose of spawning in shallow water, they are chiefly regulated by the direction of the prevailing wind.

The south-west wind blows in our islands during nine months of the year; and usually with little interruption during the Summer and Autumn. Now if, as it may naturally be supposed would be the case, the herrings would seek a sheltered shore for the deposition of their spawn, they would migrate in the Autumn, the period assigned to this process, to the *eastern* coast, and return, after it had been completed, to the deep sea from which they had issued. And this is precisely their course. They first appear off the north-west coast of Scotland in the beginning of June, proceed along the northern,

* In accordance with this opinion it is ascertained that a shoal or shoals of herrings enter St. George's Channel from the South in the month of May, reaching the Isle of Man about the middle of June.—*Report of Committee of Manx Legislature on Herring-fishery, 1827.* This fact tallies with the supposition of their circuit of the Island, stated in page 65.

and swarm on the north-eastern in July; and descending along the eastern, reach Cromarty Bay, about September, and commence and continue spawning, in sheltered places, especially off Yarmouth, till the end of October. In October they reach the straits of Dover, and continue in the east part of the Channel during that and the following month, when the sea may be seen covered with their spawn, drifted probably from the eastern coast. Then pursuing a westerly direction, having fulfilled the purpose for which they resorted to the eastern coast, they reach the coast of Devon, in November, accompanied by the young fry*, and finally vanish altogether off the Land's End of Cornwall in March, except some few individuals which may be occasionally caught during the whole of the year. In the interval between March and June, the period at which they are lost sight of at the south-west extremity of our island, and reappear at the north-west, they pursue their course in deep water; and if they continue to proceed

* The net used off the coast of Devon is contrived so as to allow the young fish to pass unmolested. It is fastened at one end to an anchor, or a buoy, at a distance from the shore regulated by the course of the herrings; about ten feet in depth. The upper part is floated by corks; the lower kept down by leads. The mesh is adapted to the *full-grown size* of the herring; the fish, endeavouring to pass, advances as far as the dorsal fin, when, on attempting to go back, it is caught by the gills.

during these months at the same rate at which they advance during the remaining nine, they cannot depart far from our shores. They probably form the complete circuit of our island; and the supposition that their movement bears reference to spawning, and is regulated by the wind, in regard to this purpose, is obvious and natural.

The descent of the herrings along the western coast of Scotland and into the Irish Channel, offers no objection to the above supposition. They resort to those bays and coasts which are sheltered from the south-west wind, such as the Clyde and its various lochs, and migrate from the western to the eastern shore of the Isle of Man, in September, the period of spawning*, whilst their visits are irregular to

* A gentleman residing in the Isle of Man has kindly procured me accurate information respecting the course of the herrings, by visiting the different towns for the purpose of making the inquiry. He states that the herrings approach the shores of the island from the north, and the shoal is first met with about the middle of June, about fifteen miles north of the Island, at a spot nearly equidistant from the Island, and from Ireland, and from Scotland. The fish then gradually but slowly move southward,—they are opposite Peel about the middle of July, when they are in the fattest and richest state,—they proceed round the Calf, and up the eastern coast, above Douglas, and in September they reach the spawning-ground which is nearly opposite Clay-Head, which is one of the heads of Laxey-Bay: the fishing season ceases in October, and their subsequent course is not traced with any certainty. The fish are *never known to spawn on the west side of the*

those bays on the western coast which are exposed to the west winds.

I have little doubt, from the information which I received on the different parts of the western coast, that the accounts of the former regular visits of the herrings to its bays were inaccurate; that the appearance of an occasional shoal had been recollected, while the long intervals between the periods of the return of the fish had been forgotten. The erection of the fishing-establishments on the western coast, already mentioned, was probably grounded on the erroneous inference of continued, from the circumstance of occasional visits of the fish: and their entire failure was owing to their not possessing the advantage of the vicinity, either of the fishing-grounds, the source of success to the fishing-establishments on the north-west and north-east coasts, or that of the market, which affords to the Clyde and Thames fisheries their great superiority. The same cause may have occasioned the failure of the fishery on the western coast of Ireland. Had the course of the herrings been more accurately observed, a vast loss of capital would have been probably prevented.

The minor fluctuations in the progress of these fish are, doubtless, governed by the wind, as they Island. Sometimes a part of the shoal has lingered about Peel until September or October, and the fish thus caught are *invariably found not to have spawned.*

advance and recede, still making good their way in a direction always opposite to that from which it blows. The progressive movement may also have reference to a perpetual and inexhaustible supply of food.

It is possible that the curious fact of the *pilchards* proceeding in a direction opposite to that of the herrings, those fish appearing off the coast of Cornwall in August, and moving eastward, up a part of the Channel, till November, and then disappearing altogether, may have given rise to the supposition of two divisions of herrings, as the pilchards* differ so little from the herrings, that they might easily be supposed to be of the same species. It is remarkable that the disappearance of the pilchards about the coast of Devon, is exactly contemporaneous with the advance of the herrings to the same part of the Channel. The intermingling and conflicting of these approaching hosts is obviated by the instinctive retreat of the former, not

* The difference between the pilchard and the herring has been clearly ascertained. There is one singular mode of distinguishing the pilchard from the herring, resorted to in the West of England, by placing the fish in the frying-pan. The herring is said to be never fat enough to fry itself; whilst half a dozen pilchards, in their best state, would amply supply a frying-pan with fat. But this result arises, perhaps, from the different period at which the herrings and pilchards visit that part of the coast; the pilchards in their *fat*, the herrings in their *lean*, season.

in the path of its former advance, but into the *deep* water.

The abode of the herrings in the great deep exactly corresponds with the breeding season of their persecutors, the gannets, or solan geese, which prey principally on them. These birds may be then seen congregated *en masse* on their great citadels, the Bass Rock in the Firth of Forth, and the Ailsa Crag at the mouth of the Clyde, performing the process of incubation and feeding their young. As soon as they are emancipated from these duties, and are again on the wing, the herrings re-appear in their neighbourhood, and draw them gradually from their sequestered retreats to the frequented and busy coasts of the Channel.

Ullapool, the victim of herring-caprice, has not been altogether deserted by the fish. The day of my visit happened to be one of the few lucky days which revive the dormant spirit of the impoverished inhabitants. The rumour of the approach of a numerous shoal, which now seldom murmurs along the silent banks of the lake, had drawn forth all the boats, and they were returning well laden with their spoils. I shared in the good fortune of the fishermen, for, save for their seasonable provision, I must have contented myself again with a dinner of vegetables; for my hostess, having expressed her regret that she had no meat, returned with a different report, and promised me some excellent mut-

ton, which had been kept the proper time ; and at length she placed on the table a dish of hashed meat, well steeped in sauce, the meaning of which I knew well from former experience,—that it was too tough for mastication ; and such proved to be the fact. She was compelled to acknowledge that the old meat had been too long kept, and that a sheep had been actually killed to supply my dinner since my arrival.

The Innkeeper furnished me with a guide, and three stout ponies from Dingwall. Coasting Loch Broom, and ascending a valley watered by a river, and adorned with rich wood, we reached the little inn of Vasacrinach. The landlord provided me with a real treat ; some musty wheat bread, the luxury of which no Englishman can appreciate, who has not fared for a fortnight on oat-cake and barley-scones.

The whole road was very rough, and intercepted by innumerable torrents, some of which formed very fine cataracts. But there was no time for admiring them ; speed being the order of the day, as the rain fell in torrents, and every hour increased the water : our horses, indeed, already kept their footing with difficulty at the fords, and the guide doubted the practicability of passing some streams before us. To retreat would be probably under such circumstances as difficult as to advance ; and detention in a desert without shelter, would be no

pleasant alternative. A succession of high heathery mountains, and broad straths, down which rolled streams now rapidly swelling into rivers, formed the unvaried features of the surrounding scenery. We paused only to bait and rest the horses. We ascended, at length, to an open country, forming part of a broad buttress of Ben Wyvis, which was once supposed to dispute the palm of pre-eminence with Ben Nevis, but is, in fact, lower by several hundred feet. The evening fortunately brightened, and the setting sun lightened with its parting rays the massy ridges which form the western rampart of this mountain, a vast round pile, concealing its summit from our view.

The clouds, gradually scattered by a strong breeze, uncovered a boundless and confused heap of shapeless hills, dreary and inhospitable as "the waste dominions of the dead." The stamp of our horses' feet raised a stately stag: the "antler'd monarch" of the wilderness, who appeared little alarmed at our approach, stood gazing on us for some time, at a short distance, and then walked slowly away. The last few miles carried us through a series of wooded valleys. Our ponies trotted into Dingwall, after a rapid and rough journey of fifty miles, apparently as fresh as when they started.

Dingwall may be considered the Roehampton of the Highlands, so thickly is its pleasant neighbour-

hood studded with gentlemen's seats, the residences of main-land and island lairds, chiefly Mackenzies. Among these, Brahan Castle, on the confluence of the rivers Oran and Conan, the seat of the Sea-forths, is perhaps pre-eminent in the beauty of its situation. In the comfort and luxury of these mansions, the tourist speedily forgets his toils and soakings, and may recruit his strength for fresh excursions.

Cromarty Bay, at the head of which Dingwall is situated, the only harbour on the east coast of Scotland accessible at low water to large vessels, is well distinguished by its two celebrated round promontories called the Suters. The war-prices of corn have brought the neighbouring districts into rich culture.

The river Conan, which flows into the Firth at Dingwall, from which Mrs. Hay Mackenzie derived formerly a rent of 700*l.* a-year, was once celebrated for the abundance of salmon. Its subsequent defalcation is attributed to the use of the stake-nets in the Firth, to which the exclusion of the fish from the upper part of the river is traced. But these instruments, if used under proper regulations, have not been found to produce such effects.

The importance of the salmon-fishery is not sufficiently appreciated by the public; and the fact of the rapid disappearance of the fish, in many places in which it formerly afforded an ample profit, is regarded with too much indifference.

Salmon abounds naturally in all the rivers, estuaries, and coasts of the British Isles, affording an article of subsistence, as well as of luxury, to all classes of people; and its preservation has been made the subject of numerous statutes, regulating the conflicting interests of different proprietors. The objects of legislation on the subject should be twofold: to afford such protection to the fish as may secure the most constant and abundant supply in all parts of the kingdom, and to prevent mutual interference of allowed rights. Differences of opinion are entertained by the best-informed persons as to the natural history of the salmon, and the times proper for permitting and prohibiting the fishing. But there are certain undisputed facts, which might form the basis of laws; viz., that the salmon ascend the rivers for the purpose of spawning; that they return to the sea after depositing their spawn; that they are then in a foul state, unfit for food; that the young fry evolve in the spring of the year from the ova deposited, and that they also descend to the sea: and that impediments, preventing the periodical ascent of the fish to the upper part of the rivers, for the purpose of spawning, and their descent as kelts, or new-spawned fish, or young fry, returning to the sea, ought to be prohibited, as interfering with the continuance of the species. Hence the *close* or *fence* season, during which the fishing is rendered illegal, differing according to the different times at

which the fish enter and quit the rivers, varying, as it has been ascertained, according to local circumstances. But this difference of regulation renders it extremely difficult to prevent the illegal catching of salmon, as the sale becomes legal as soon as a single river is open; it being impossible to ascertain from what river the salmon offered in the market has been taken. That the law on this subject may be at once simple and valid, it ought to be uniform; and would be so, if it depended on the spawning-season of the salmon, which has been proved, by the concurrent testimony of all the witnesses examined by the Committee of the House of Commons, to be the same in all the rivers.

“They all agree,” says the able writer* of a pamphlet, published in 1827, entitled an *Inquiry into the present state and means of Improving the Salmon-Fisheries, &c.*, “in fixing one and the same time for the descent of the fry; a circumstance which goes far to show that the deposition of the *ova* must also be nearly about the same season everywhere.

“Secondly. The witnesses often confound the ascent of the clean fish in the spring with that of

* James Cornish, Esq., a gentleman residing in the West of England, who has devoted the laborious leisure redeemed from professional avocations, during a period exceeding twice the *viginti annorum lucubrationes*, to the study of natural history; author of a work on the Salmon and Channel Fisheries, &c.

the spawners, and speak of an *early* river as if they meant early in spawning, while they mean only that the clean fish may be found in it sooner than other rivers."

Now the *fence-months*, as established by law in the different rivers of the kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, vary according to the minutes of evidence given by the same author, between the 12th of August and the 23rd of December, for the commencement, and the 30th of November and the 15th of May, for the close; a difference manifestly groundless and absurd. The consequences are most pernicious: the nets are set in many rivers even before the fish have spawned; the kelts, or newly-spawned fish, though unfit for food, are also taken, and the small fry are destroyed by the dragging of the nets, which are of the seine or coble kind, over the bed of the river. The cruive, another instrument for taking the fish, though by Act of Parliament its wires should be so far apart (three inches being the prescribed interval,) as to allow the passage of fish of seven pounds in weight, is fashioned by the cupidity of the proprietor, and catches breeders indiscriminately with other fish. It is, however, less objectionable than the coble-net, not being injurious to the young fry. The pretext, used for these various methods of exterminating the race, is the appearance of the *early* fish in the rivers. The ascent of the salmon is influenced

by various causes: the comparative coolness of the river, and the attacks of an insect called the sea-louse, from which the fresh water rids them; but for the purpose of spawning, it occurs generally in September and October, and they deposit their spawn in November, December, January, and February.

Now the author of the "Inquiry" remarks, with reference to the *early* fish, that they would remain in the upper pools of the rivers till the fishing-season commenced, if it were deferred to a later period, as they would be detained in them by the causes which originally determined their ascent, and thus become the sure prize of the proprietors of the upper fishery; but immediate profit, resulting from the high prices paid for the first-caught salmon in the beginning of the spring, in London, and other places, affords a strong temptation to the premature and destructive fishery, which the Legislature unfortunately sanctions.

The interest of the proprietors, in regard to increasing the quantity of fish sent to market, is at issue with that of the public, because, as the price varies in an inverse ratio to the quantity offered for sale, an equal sum may be got in exchange for a small quantity. A society was formed in London some years ago, during a scarcity, for the relief of the distressed manufacturers and other poor of the metropolis. In the course of their inquiries, they

ascertained that the masters of the vessels, which conveyed the mackerel to London from the coasts, were accustomed to cast into the river a large part of their cargoes, for the purpose of enhancing the price of the remaining quantity. They offered to purchase the fish which would have been so disposed of; and, by selling them at reduced prices, lowered the price of butchers' meat in the London market in a few days.

The author of the *Inquiry* proposes that the fence-season should extend from the commencement of September to the middle of April, during which period the sale or possession of fish ought to be made illegal. The same writer is a strenuous advocate for the use of the stake-net, which he thus describes :—

“ The stake-net consists of netting extended upon upright stakes, fixed in the beach or sand-banks, which are left uncovered when the tide ebbs. These stakes run in a line nearly at right angles with the current of the tide, extending from high-water mark to low-water mark. They are placed at two or three yards' distance from each other, or at such other distances as the fishermen find necessary for strength. The netting is stretched tight along the stakes, from the ground up to the full height to which the tide rises: the meshes of the net are very large, generally three inches from knot to knot, or twelve inches in circumference, and they

are always open. There is thus, as it were, a hedge or fence constructed, sufficient to intercept the salmon, but through which the water and all the small fish pass freely.

“When salmon, running with the tide, come against a stake-net, they swim along the side, seeking an opening through which to pass. To receive them when thus swimming along, an entrance is formed, which leads into a chamber or labyrinth, constructed also by netting, stretched on upright stakes. Into this labyrinth the fish pass freely with the tide; but, from its construction, it is hardly possible for them to find their way out: thus they are detained until the tide retires, when they are taken by the fishermen. These chambers have their openings or entrances so placed as to receive the fish going upwards with the flood-tide, or those going downwards with the ebb, according as the *set* of the tide on the coast happens to lead the fish on the station, in the ebb or in the flood. Frequently there are more chambers than one; and when it is suitable, there are chambers both for the ebb and the flood in the same net.”

The situation in which the stake-nets are used, is in the estuaries and entrances of rivers. Extending never beyond low-water mark, they do not interrupt the navigation; nor do they intercept the kelts and young fry in their descent to the sea; as the former being exhausted, and the latter weak,

and unable to struggle with the eddies in the sides of the river, they suffer themselves to be carried down the mid-channel by the main stream. The stake-net is still prohibited by the laws of the old parliament of Scotland, which have been recently interpreted according to their strict letter by the Court of Session*. It is allowed in England. The reason, no doubt, for these laws, was the design of protecting the salmon; but the evidence adduced before the Committee of the House of Commons proves, that the stake-nets used in the entrances of some of the Scotch rivers did not diminish the quantity taken in the upper part of the same rivers. These instruments, subject to the limitation in regard to the low-water mark, and also to the restriction respecting the close season, would allow sufficient space for the ingress and egress of the fish, and would only add materially to the whole quantity taken. The race would be multiplied by the protection afforded by the extension of the close season; and the stake-net fishery would secure to the public the fish which would otherwise become the prey of the seals and grampusses, which feed principally on salmon. The Legislature ought to be guided, not by the voice of the proprietors of the upper fisheries, who are naturally interested in the monopoly of the market,

* The Lord Chancellor has ratified the decision of the Court of Session.

but by a regard to the public good. The increase of the salmon taken in the Tay, and other rivers in which the stake-net was introduced, was enormous : it might, therefore, be rendered available, in consequence of the great increase of the facilities of conveyance to the different parts of the kingdom, as an article of food for the community, instead of being merely, as at present, an object of luxury for the rich.

At Dingwall there is an Episcopalian Chapel, where I had the opportunity of attending Divine Service on Sunday. The congregation consisted chiefly of the upper classes. The increase of Episcopalians in Dingwall has been great ; for at the period of the Statistical Survey, there were here but ten families of that persuasion. The minister preaches in the Gaelic language to several congregations on the hills beyond Inverness, and repairs occasionally to Dingwall. His laborious attention to his duties is ill remunerated. The Episcopalians are numerous in the neighbourhood of Dingwall.

In the town is an obelisk erected to the memory of John, Earl of Cromarty, for the purpose, it is alleged, of preventing his enemies executing their threat of dancing over his grave. The title was forfeited in the rebellion of 1715. The residence of the family was Castle Leod, now the property of Mr. Hay Mackenzie, a fine old square tower near

Dingwall, standing at the extremity of an avenue of tall and spreading timber-trees. Near this spot resides Sir George Mackenzie, well known for his travels in Iceland.

On the side of the road to Beauley are two upright stones, which, according to the prediction of the same wizard who denounced the Seaforth line, will be one day stained with the blood of the last of the Mackenzies. The seer expiated the crime of intercourse with the infernal agent at the stake, during the last century. Beauley stands at the upper part of the Murray Firth. The Cathedral is a roofless building, of inconsiderable size, used as the burial-place of the neighbouring families, whose tombs are half-buried by grass. Near Beauley a cattle fair has been established, affording great advantage to the northern Highlands and Islands.

On a high bank near this little town, beneath which rolls the river through an extensive valley, surrounded by high hills, stands Beaufort Castle, the residence of Mr. Fraser of Lovat, who succeeded to the possession of it on the death of the late proprietor, a younger son of the notorious Lovat, by whom the title was forfeited. Mr. Fraser traces his descent to the fifth lord. The principal seat of the rebel lord was Lovat, but he resided also here, at the old castle called Downie, which was destroyed after the battle of Culloden by the Duke of Cumberland. A part of the wall of this

building, now covered with brushwood, remains near the present mansion. Lord Lovat beheld its fall from a neighbouring hill. His greyhounds, four guns composed of brass and silver, by which it was defended, are preserved in the Tower of London. A shot lately found, was identified by Mr. Fraser's old piper, as having been discharged from one of them. The present mansion, which is small, and was never intended as the residence of the family, was built by Lord Lovat's factor when the old castle was destroyed; and he was allowed by government a sum to defray the expense. He was taken in this neighbourhood, after the battle of Culloden, by President Forbes, escaped from his imprisonment in the town of Inverness, and fled to his property of Morar, opposite Sky, where he was found, wrapped in a blanket, within a hollow tree. So great was his vanity, that he wrote his own epitaph long before his last troubles, panegyricizing his own vile character most unscrupulously.

His eldest son, the master of Lovat, quite a boy, who had been urged to share in the rebellion by his father, who meanwhile professed to disclaim him for his conduct, as undutiful and disloyal, commanded his clan, Fraser, under the banner of the Pretender. The son was involved in the proscription with his father; but afterwards, in consideration of his youth, and the tyranny and treachery by which his father had hurried him into rebellion,

received his pardon, and subsequently recovered his estates. He did not belie the confidence reposed in him. He had raised a regiment amongst his clansmen for the service of the king, before his property was restored; and afterwards added two others, and rose to the rank of general officer. An instance of the strong feeling of clanship occurred whilst he was raising his regiments. Glengarry had endeavoured, but without success, to induce the people of Morar to enlist, but no sooner did General Fraser appear amongst them, than one hundred of them flocked to his standard*. The

* An instance of the remarkable attachment of the clan Fraser to their chief occurred in 1715. Lovat had been invited by Forbes of Culloden and the Duke of Argyle, to return to England to place himself at the head of his clan to oppose the rebels. He did so: "and here," says Sir Walter Scott, "the reader may remark the strength of the clannish principle. This chief had not been formally acknowledged as such—he had never been master of his inheritance, and his rival had enjoyed for years all the means of acquiring and securing attachment which possession could give;—there was nothing in his personal character to admire: it was stained on the contrary with much guilt and with dark suspicion; and lastly the cause which he now espoused was not that to which his followers would have inclined, had they consulted their own feelings and partialities. But he was their rightful chief; and such was the strength of authority which that word implied, that those Frasers who had stood neuter, at once declared for Simon and his cause; and those who had marched with Fraserdale (to unite with the rebels) deserted him to a man, and returned northward to join his standard."—*Quarterly Review*, XIV. 320.

generosity evinced towards a chief, who had appeared in arms against his sovereign, was justified and rewarded by the enthusiastic gratitude and devoted loyalty of himself and of his clansmen, and contributed to enthrone the present royal family in the affections of the most devoted adherents of the exiled line. The General was succeeded in the possession of his estates by his brother, whose eccentricities acquired for him a degree of notoriety scarcely surpassed by that which crimes had won for his guilty sire. It was his prevailing notion that Buonaparte's invasion would take place in his neighbourhood, and to oppose it, he planted broom on the plain before his castle to furnish ambush for his riflemen, erected martello towers on the lawn in which the castle stood, and to secure his retreat, if necessary, he made a road to his glen, which now leads, very conveniently for his successor, to the catholic chapel which the latter has erected.

The glens from which the river Beauley descends, the property partly of Lovat and partly of Chisholm, are beautifully variegated with rock and wood: and the Falls of Kilmorach, though in height but a salmon-leap, form a striking feature in the landscape, where the river bursts from a narrow pass. Mr. Fraser enjoys by charter the exclusive right of the salmon-fishery of this river, and derives from it a rent of 1300*l*. And he has lately profited by the interpretation of the old statutes,

which has produced the decision of the Court of Session, in prosecuting, in conjunction with his tenant, who holds the fishery, the stake-nets used in the Firth. Mr. Fraser has planted his hills with vast quantities of fir, affording cover for deer and game of divers kinds, and also larch: of this wood Glen Strath Glass has yielded 40,000*l.* to the acre. Of the loss of sheep from snow this glen afforded lately a calamitous instance: one farmer having lost between one and two thousand. Mr. Fraser's chapel is built in an elegant style, without needless costliness; it is calculated for 700 persons. The population of the glen is chiefly catholic. In front of an old farm-house, belonging to Mr. Fraser, may be seen, depending from the trunk of a fine juniper-tree, the instrument of punishment called the Juggs, an iron collar fixed at such a height that it might adjust itself commodiously to the neck of a man in a sitting posture. The choice of the situation for this pillory, a spot in which it could not escape the observation of every guest who approached the house, was perhaps convenient enough in the days in which it was used. This mode of punishment was common in Europe. In some of the old castles in Germany may be seen a stone pillar, with grooves for the reception of the head of the offender. Erchless Castle, the seat of Chisholm, a square tower, partly enclosed by Lovat's property, has also in its neighbourhood a tree used by

the ancestors of the present laird as a gallows ; in virtue of the heritable jurisdiction which they enjoyed as chiefs of the clan.

A dreary moor divides the glens of the Beauley from Loch-Ness. The principal object on the north side of this celebrated lake is the huge round summit of Meal-fourvouny. On the south are several glens, bold, craggy, and richly wooded. One of these is the bed of a mountain-torrent, which, pursuing its course in cataracts, at length rushes through a rocky channel not exceeding three feet in breadth ; and then bursting forth as from a spout, falls on a slightly projecting ledge seven feet below, and thence 180 feet into a deep pool, whose dark waters reflect the gloom cast upon them by high impending rocks and overshadowing trees, needing not the adventitious aid of the clouds and heavy showers which were now passing—

..... To sadden all the scene,
Shade every flower, and darken every green,
Deepen the murmur of the falling floods,
And breathe a browner horror on the woods.

The Fall of Foyers, of which I have attempted an exact description, is pre-eminent in grandeur among the Scottish cataracts, which seldom deserve their reputation.

A pleasant ride along the shore of the lake leads to Inverness.

CHAPTER XVI.

INVERNESS, CULLODEN, CALDER CASTLE, MORAYSHIRE, FORRES, FINDHORN, PLUSCARDINE, SPEY, BANFF, FRASERBURG, PETERHEAD, SLANE CASTLE, BULLARS OF BUCHAN.

THE situation of Inverness has been justly celebrated, on the bank of the broad and rapid Ness, which rolls through a plain diversified by hills, some of which are of tabulated form, and enters the Murray Firth at a short distance below. It is crossed by an old-fashioned bridge, built in the reign of Charles the Second. The modern entrance to the town is on a level much higher than the ancient, which is still indicated by an arch, forming part of an adjoining house. Near the bridge is an eminence, on which stood formerly the old Fort. The streets are neither broad nor handsome; but the shops are good. A square contains the town-house, and the churches boast of ornamental spires. The population of the town and parish amounts to 14,000 persons: it contains three churches of the Kirk of Scotland, and a small Episcopalian chapel*.

* The description of the buildings of Inverness I leave to guide-books. Of the jail Mr. Anderson observes, that it is very defective and confined, both in regard to the accommodation of the county, and the comfort of prisoners; but a

Inverness enjoyed a very profitable trade in corn and skins, from 1698, under the protection of a charter from James the Sixth, to 1745, when it was interrupted by the public troubles*. The aristocratic indisposition of the lairds to commercial undertakings, is assigned as a reason for its having made but little progress†.

spacious new court-house, record-office, and county-rooms, are in progress of erection, on the Castle-hill, and perhaps a jail may afterwards be added to them. With all its defects, he remarks, this jail must have been regarded as a palace, in comparison of the prison of the town, which was used after the vault in the stone-bridge had been changed into a bed-lam; the said vault, contained in one of the arches of the new bridge, having been only abandoned after a maniac confined in it had been devoured by rats.

The reformation of jails, hitherto much neglected, now occupies the attention of philanthropists in Scotland; and in one respect its delay has been beneficial, as use can be made of the recent improvements in prison discipline, especially the inimitable silence-system of America, which has been adopted with so much success in the House of Correction at Wakefield, and in other prisons. The only jail, in Scotland in which the plan of separation of criminals has been introduced, is the House of Correction in Glasgow: in this so strictly, that the prisoners are not permitted to assemble for public worship. The zeal of the chaplain, in administering spiritual instruction to the prisoners in their cells, can afford little extenuation of such rigour.

* *Statistical Survey.*

† The trade has revived within a few years, in consequence of the very great increase of cultivation in the neighbouring districts. Within fifteen years, about 8000 to 10,000 bolls of oatmeal used to be *imported* to Inverness; while now, from

The expectation of much benefit to Inverness from the passage of vessels through the Caledonian Canal has been in a great measure disappointed; as various reasons still induce or compel the traders generally to prefer the circuitous and hazardous circumnavigation of the northern coast of Scotland. These are the insufficiency of the depth of water in the canal*: the difficulty of access to it, occasioned by its junction with the Firth being effected, not by a prolongation of its direction in a straight line to the Firth, but by its being carried on for some distance in a line at right angles to its general direction, and parallel to the Firth; a plan adopted probably to prevent a rush of water into the canal:

4000 to 5000 bolls of oats are *exported* from its piers.—*Anderson's Guide*.

The improvements in the town and county of Inverness have been planned or carried on by those who were not denizens by birth,—an example of the lethargy of the native Highlanders.—*Anderson's Prize Essay, Transactions of Highland Society*. Vol. ii.

The growth of Inverness has been impeded, according to the same Essay, by the rise of Thurso and Wick. The Scottish fisheries, the revival of which has raised these towns, flourished during the seventeenth century, and constituted one of the principal sources of the Foreign trade; and declined from the commencement of the eighteenth century, in consequence of the disturbed state of the country, confiscations, and the pernicious practice of uniting farms and fishing.—*Melville, Transactions of Highland Society*. Vol. ii.

* It amounts in one place to only fifteen feet at present.—*Anderson*.

and also the little breadth of some of the lkes, and consequent impediment to navigation*. And objections to the use of the canal have been augmented by the recent doubling of the dues on vessels passing through it†.

The attention of the northern gentry has been lately attracted to science and literature, by the

* It is proposed to remedy this inconvenience by a tug-boat.—*Anderson's Guide*.

† Although the dues have been subsequently reduced to their previous amount, it is always found a difficult task to restore the course of trade into a channel which has been at any time, however temporarily or partially, relinquished; and there is little probability that it can be placed on an entirely prosperous footing, unless still greater facilities and encouragement are held out to the use of the canal than at present.—*Ibid*.

The tonnage-duties amount now only to one farthing per ton per mile. They are indeed so low as in almost every case to be covered by the saving of insurance on the cargo. The annual produce of the rates has hitherto averaged from 2000*l.* to 3000*l.*, a sum, however, falling short of the annual expenditure; and the aggregate tonnage passing through it may be rated at about 30,000 tons. Till the full depth of twenty feet be obtained, the receipts cannot be expected to be much bettered, as the dues fall so heavily on small coasting vessels, from their frequent trips and low freights, as to make the owners less eager to avail themselves of the communication; while to a large vessel on a long voyage, the advantage will far outweigh the expense attending the passage through the canal.—*Ibid*.

In the year ending May 1835, the dues amounted to 2231*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.*; the expenditure to 3595*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.*, exceeding the total receipts by 1168*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.*—*Commissioners' Report for 1835*.

formation of the Northern Institution, for the promotion of these objects, at Inverness: it commenced but two years ago, under discouraging circumstances, but has now a small and increasing collection of antiquities and curiosities. It is under the able superintendence of Mr. Anderson*.

One of the most perfect specimens of a vitrified fort known in Scotland, may be seen on Craig Phadric, a hill near Inverness. It is surrounded by a triple wall, exhibiting the usual marks of fusion. Different conjectures have been offered as to the origin of these curious remains of antiquity. Sir George Mackenzie conceives that they were used as signal stations, and that the fusion was produced by the charcoal employed in kindling the beacon. Although their relative situation is suited to communications by signal, yet on this supposition, the indications of fire would be confined to that part of the fort on which the beacon was kindled; and not visible in every other part of the structure. Dr. Macculloch and others suppose, that fire was applied to these buildings to produce cohesion and solidity: he observes that for this purpose the materials used were always fusible, whereas those which were infusible, though near at hand, were rejected by the architects. And he is satisfied that the practice was brought by the Celtic tribes from the East, where it was customary. Dr. Haldane,

* One of the Authors of the *Guide*, &c.

lecturer of Natural History in the University of St. Andrew's, supposes that the vitrification had been produced by sea-weed, which is extremely susceptible of fusion, as is evinced in the manufacture of kelp, and that it had been used as a substitute for cement, the material being laid in grooves encircling the walls. Hibbert's notion of a volcanic origin affords another instance of the absurdity in which learned men will indulge, in supporting a favourite theory. A building might well be vitrified by the operation of volcanic fire; but to attribute to such a cause the vitrification of the forts, it must be supposed that a deluge of volcanic matter must have overspread the land at some period of time beyond the records of tradition, though not before the origin of building, overflowing mountain-tops as well as lowly valleys.

An execrable road, through fir-woods, leads to the battle-field of Culloden. The slaughter which followed the defeat of the rebels extended to King's Mill, a small hamlet within a mile of Inverness, where the precise spot on which the last of the slain lay, is pointed out. The graves of the fallen are in the centre of the field, and are still indicated by the greenness of the grass.

The hatred of the Duke of Cumberland excited by the conduct attributed to him is still cherished with almost undiminished rancour by a people strongly

tenacious of vindictive as of grateful recollections.
The popular song

“ The de'il sits girning in the nook
Riving sticks to burn the duke,
All the whigs shall go to hell,”

was literally the heartfelt sentiments of the Highlanders, and the mention of the Duke's name still exasperates them. The virulence of the people in the glens of the Beauley on the subject is quite surprising. It is alleged that the inhabitants of Glen Morrison received a pardon from the Duke ; and that they were afterwards banished to Barbadoes. And the proof of the existence of the pardon is stated to be grounded not only on tradition, but on the original document which has been brought to England by some of the exiles who have returned. A regimental order, bearing date the second day after the battle, said to be a transcript of the order issued by the commander of the royal army, was lately found in the neighbourhood of Inverness. It runs thus : “ Order same as yesterday ; no quarter to be given.” Chambers, in his recent *History of the Rebellion*, has given the reins to his imagination in animadverting on the conduct of the victors. The most horrible atrocities were similarly charged on the rebels by the well-contrived policy, furious hate, or exaggerating terrors, produced by civil war. But

th events of 1745 have become a tale of olden time, and the "clans of Culloden" now yield to none of their fellow-subjects in pure enthusiastic loyalty*.

On the further side of the Nairn river is the ancient castle of Calder, once the residence of the Thanes of Calder, and now the property of Lord Cawdor. The massy pile is built in the form of a square, enclosing a lofty and towering keep, rising from the side of a rapid torrent rushing through a deep rocky channel, fringed by wood. The front of the castle overlooks a square lawn enclosed by avenues of trees. A draw-bridge, lined on each side by three lofty elms growing out of the fosse, leads to the gate-way, over which a large bell is suspended. These trees, half-shrouding the ramparts and turrets, form by their interwoven branches a sombre but appropriate canopy; and the raven's croak was alone wanting to revive the tragical associations inseparable from the name and site of this castle.

The old hall and dungeons remain; and the branchless trunk of a tree, springing from the ground-floor of the keep, is pointed out as attesting

* I conversed lately with a man aged 103 years, in Cambridgeshire, whose memory was good, and who perfectly recollected the invasion of the rebels, and the dread excited by the rumour, then rife, of their killing their prisoners by rolling them in barrels filled with nails.

the following traditionary history of the foundation of the castle. A seer, who was consulted respecting the site, directed that an ass should be laden with an iron chest filled with gold, and suffered to take its own course, and that, wherever the animal stopped, the castle should be built. The tree thus became the nucleus of this baronial pile. The chest is preserved and exhibited. The apartments of the castle are numerous and small; some of them are occasionally occupied. Their walls are partly hung with tapestry, and adorned with portraits, amongst which is one of the famous Marquis of Montrose, and another of one of the ancient lords of the castle, the Sampson of his day, who, for a wager, carried on his shoulders the massy iron grate in the portal of the keep.

The building was much injured a few years ago by fire, which consumed a memorable relic of antiquity,—the identical bed in which King Duncan is traditionally reported to have been murdered, and which was brought here, as a place of safety, from the castle of Inverness. In a loft of the castle the rebel Lord Lovat effectually concealed himself after the battle of Culloden. The approach to it is by a gallery on the roof, at the end of which is a ladder leading to a flight of stone steps. A gallery encircles the keep, affording a fine view southward of a sloping ridge well covered with fir-forests, terminating in hills partly bare and partly tufted

by clumps of trees; and northward by the windings of the river to its confluence with the Firth.

Near this interesting remnant of other days, at the head of a little branch of the Firth, stands Castle Stewart, a lofty, square, half-ruined building, with wings projecting from the front, said to have been the residence of Regent Murray.

Forres on the Findhorn is an old and respectable town. In its neighbourhood is the celebrated obelisk. It measures twenty feet in height, and four in breadth. It is sculptured from top to bottom, exhibiting rows of figures on foot and horseback, accoutred with various sorts of armour, besides other warlike devices, and hieroglyphical characters. The occasion on which it was erected is uncertain; whether on a defeat of the Danes, or the assassination of King Duff.

The division of Morayshire into highlands and lowlands is marked no less decidedly by geographical line than by the difference of language. Gaelic, spoken not long ago at the gate of Forres, has now receded several miles up the glens, and the people speak both languages, or to use the country phrase, "turn their tongues baith ways." The lowlands of Moray are thickly planted with gentlemen's seats; and the banks of the Findhorn, and more especially of its tributary streams, abound in beautiful and romantic scenery.

The castle of Darnaway, (the Earl of Moray's,) stands on the left bank of that river, on an eminence commanding a fine view of the surrounding woods of Forres, the river, and the sea, and westward of the woods of Calder. Of the old building, which existed not many years ago, and was one of the finest edifices of the kind in Scotland, unfortunately nothing remains but the wooden roof, and part of the walls of the hall, which has been rebuilt; an apartment measuring one hundred feet in length by forty in breadth, and lighted by three long windows on each side. It contains some antiquated furniture from the castle, and a chair which belonged to Regent Murray, the ancestor of the present earl. The new mansion was built by the last Earl of Moray in modern style, on the site of the old castle, which it is said might have been easily rendered a commodious residence. The park is large and well-timbered, and shrouds the bank of the river with rich foliage.

Altyre, on the other side of the Findhorn, preserved by the Cummings, or Comyns amidst the general wreck of the property belonging to that family, when the Bruces of Darnaway expelled them out of the greater part of this country, in the fourteenth century, has descended to their representative, Sir William Cumming. The ascendancy of the Cummings having received its death-blow from the hand which slew the Red Comyn, the name

was persecuted almost to extinction. The house is modern, contains some good pictures, and is surrounded with a park and extensive plantations.

Sir William Cumming possesses some ancient charters, one of which contains the assignment of the Mill of Altyre, by one of his ancestors, to the Priory of Pluscardine. The sole plea, assigned by the monks, is the consciousness of his sins. Another ancient legal instrument contains the tender of *Man-rent*, or unreserved service to the Duke of Gordon: another conveyed the same to Lord Moray, with a reservation in favour of the king. Sir William preserves several interesting letters. One is written by Macleod of Macleod to Kingsborough, counselling him to deliver up the Pretender, and containing the oath which Lord Lovat had sworn to him.

It is well known that president Forbes, in his report of the disposition of the Highland Chiefs, transmitted to the government in 1745, states that Macleod of Macleod and Lord Lovat were the two on whose loyalty he placed entire reliance. Macleod acted conscientiously: Lord Lovat proved a double traitor. A curiosity in Sir W. Cumming's possession is the horn which belonged to king James the Sixth,—an appendage to Sir William's Highland dress.

The parish church of Altyre is a new edifice, built by the joint contributions of Sir William

Cumming and another proprietor. The architecture is Gothic, simple and elegant; and the tower corresponds with the general style of the building. The situation, on an eminence at the base of a fir-clad hill, is well chosen. I have seen nothing of recent erection in the islands to compare with it, except the Roman Catholic Chapel of Mr. Fraser of Lovat, which, however, wants a tower. The church contains two galleries.

Some miles above Forres, the Findhorn, rushing over a bed of broken fragments which indicate the occasional weight and fury of its waters, receives the Divvy, rolling more smoothly through a wooded pass; and near the confluence of these rivers, amidst exquisite scenery, is Regulas, Sir Thomas Dick Lauder's. The ancient tower of Dumphail Castle crests a wood-girt hill, overhanging the Divvy. The glen of the Divvy was, a few years ago, the scene of some tragical circumstances singularly illustrative of the Scotch law and practice, on one important point. There lived in this glen a farmer of respectable family and good income, who, under the guise of the most plausible manners, carried on a profitable trade in illicit whisky, and indulged in licentious habits. But he was not suspected of more atrocious crimes till the body of a woman, who lived with him as a servant, and was known to be pregnant by him, was discovered in the Divvy, and her death was attributed to suicide.

In England it would have been made the subject of legal inquiry by a coroner's inquest, a proceeding still unknown in Scotland, notwithstanding the improvements in the Scottish forms of legal procedure derived from England. The sheriff's precognition, which is optional on his part, and unassisted by a jury, is an inadequate substitute. The body of the unfortunate woman was at once consigned to the grave, and the matter was hushed up. Not long after this mysterious occurrence, another female servant disappeared from the house of the same individual, and it was reported that she had gone to America: no inquiries were made. Shortly afterwards a third became missing, who was also pregnant, the victim of the notorious miscreant's seduction. Conjectures respecting the cause of her disappearance were soon terminated by the discovery of her body in an adjoining wood, by some persons shooting, who were directed to the spot by their dogs. The supposed author of these murders was immediately apprehended: his trial was prevented by his death in prison, attributed to poison which his relations are supposed to have administered to him to prevent the disgrace of the family*.

* A similar instance of omission of inquiry occurred in this part of Scotland. The maid-servant of a lady residing on the banks of the Conan river, in Ross-shire, having been detected in the commission of a theft, drowned herself in a fit of

When the Cummings were proscribed, one of them, a desperate youth, whose habits of life accorded with those of a bandit rather than of the noble race from which he sprung, fled from his enemies to an adjoining glen, and took refuge in a hole at the foot of a precipice, concealed from view by fragments of fallen rock overgrown with copse. His

despair in that river. Her body, washed up, some days after, on the shore of the Firth, was buried in the sand without any investigation.

That the crime of *Burking* should have derived its name and notoriety from a country which allowed of such carelessness in ascertaining the cause of violent death, will not excite surprise.

The apprehension of stealing bodies produces much vigilance. It is the custom, in Scotland, for two friends of a person buried, to keep watch in the church-yard for some nights, unless another interment should relieve them from the duty, by transferring it to others. This practice has been attended with fatal consequences. Not long ago a young surgeon was shot by a watchman in the church-yard of Kilmar-nock. I was present at the trial of a man at Edinburgh, who had shot another accidentally passing through a church-yard in that city, in which the former was watching. The parties met at a corner, and the trigger was drawn in a momentary fit of alarm. The occurrence was rendered more melancholy, as the deceased was the intimate friend of his destroyer. The judge pronounced the practice to be illegal, and sentenced the unfortunate man to imprisonment.

The practice of confiding the watching the dead to their surviving friends, proves that the Highlanders do not practically rely on one of the most common of their remaining superstitious notions, that the spirit of a person buried haunts the grave till relieved by that of the next interred.

pursuers, tracking him with blood-hounds, forced him from his retreat by kindling a fire at the entrance, and beheaded him. The castle was taken: and its inmates, forty in number, shared his fate, and were buried in an adjacent spot, called to this day the tomb of the headless Cummings. The grave was opened some years ago, and found to contain several skeletons, but not a single skull: a proof of the accuracy of tradition. The glen, in which this tragedy occurred, affords scenery worthy of the pencil of Salvator Rosa.

Mr. Cumming Bruce, a brother of Sir W. Cumming, who married the daughter of Bruce, the celebrated traveller, is building a house near the old castle.

The rivers of Moray are particularly liable to *speats*, or sudden swellings of the water, and disastrous floods*. And there can be little doubt that the same cause produces both these effects, and the peculiar dryness of the climate of the lowlands of this county, which has been celebrated by historians and poets: the high range of hills to south-west of this district, intercepting the watery vapours and clouds proceeding from that quarter, and precipi-

* The dreadful devastation which they produced in 1829, and especially in the glens of this neighbourhood, has been commemorated by the graphic pen of one of those who suffered much from their ravages,—Sir Thomas Dick Lauder, the reputed author of the *Wolf of Badenoch*.

tating them. The sea, too, has committed its deprecations on this coast, and raised a monument of its fury, perhaps unparalleled in magnitude on any part of the British shores; a sand-bank, extending along the coast from the western shore of the Findhorn river, nine miles in length, and two in breadth. It consists of finely pulverized sand, unmingled with shells or pebbles, cast up into innumerable hills, some of which rise to one hundred and twenty feet, and are so steep that they cannot be ascended without difficulty, as at each step the leg sinks knee-deep in the yielding material. Not a blade of vegetation appears to vary the dreary surface, excepting reeds, which appear at a distance of about half a mile from the shore: and nothing is visible, except from the top of some of the highest hills, but a boundless wilderness of sand, reminding eastern travellers of the deserts of Arabia. A compass is almost necessary to direct one's course across it; and during a gale of wind it would be difficult to escape being overwhelmed by the drift. Houses and curious vestiges of great antiquity, of which Sir William Cumming possesses one apparently of Roman origin, have occasionally been disclosed. The accumulation of this vast aggregate of moving sands has been gradual. The barony of Culbin, which it covers, was one fertile in natural productions, and adorned with villages. The earliest desolation of it on record is coupled, in

ancient history, with the destruction of the estate of Earl Goodwin, on the coast of Kent. The following extract from Boëthius is given in a brief account of the province of Moray.

“ In that same year (1097), on the assassination of Malcolm, Albion was oftentimes terrified by many most distressful prodigies; many villages, castles, towns, and extensive woods, both in England and in Scotland, subverted by an exundation of the German Ocean, by the weight of which tempest the lands of Goodwin, near the mouth of the Thames, whom we have mentioned above, were overwhelmed with sand (*arena obrutæ sunt*), which in the present age are called Goodwin Sands. At the very same time, likewise, the lands of Moray, in Scotland, were desolated by the sea, castles subverted from the foundation, some villages destroyed, and the culture of man defeated by a discharge of sand from the sea (*ob arenas à mari egestas*); monstrous thunderings came on, roaring so loudly terrible, in such tremendous crashing, that many men in the fields were struck, some cattle were killed, and by their shock also, even towers were prostrated, (*turres quoque eorum impetu prostratas*).

Other tempests, productive of similar devastation, are mentioned at subsequent periods by historians. But they do not appear to have occasioned the great accumulation of sand which is now

visible, for in the sixteenth century, the barony of Culbin was distinguished as the granary of Moray. "The desolation," says the author of the same work on the province of Moray, "was completed prior to the year 1695, the narrative of the Act of Parliament then made to prevent the pulling up of bent, (a reedy grass which establishes itself in this sterile region,) relates, 'That the barony of Culbin, and house and yards thereof, is quite ruined and overspread with sand.' Tradition, conjoined with the narrative of the Act of Parliament, relates that the desolating visitation began in the harvest of the year 1697, and before the end of the spring thereafter had whelmed more than 1200 acres of fertile land."

The principal object of interest in this part of Scotland, is the Cathedral of Elgin. The situation of the town, near the river Lossie, is pleasant; the town is neat, and comfort and opulence appear in the residences of the gentry within and around it. On an adjacent eminence stands the infirmary, a large and commodious building.

The present ruinous state of the cathedral must not be attributed to the reformers. The work of demolition commenced in 1568, on an infamous order being issued for plundering the lead of the roof and other parts of the building, to supply the materials of a war. The lead so gotten was sold for 100*l.* to a mercantile house in Am-

sterdam ; and the ship which conveyed this sacrilegious cargo sunk off the Girdleness. Much of the nave was standing in the seventeenth century. Its destruction involved the downfall of the central tower. Of the nave remains now only a part of the south wall ; exhibiting in its windows beautiful fragments of Gothic architecture, and lined in the interior by several tombs belonging, it is said, to the Mar family. The western door is a fine specimen of the same style. The towers on each side of it are yet standing. On the south side of the choir is a chapel containing the cemetery of the Gordon family. The oldest of the monuments is that of the Earl of Huntley, bearing date in the fifteenth century.

The walls of the choir, adorned by low, lancet windows, are still standing : the eastern window is very beautiful. On the north side of the cathedral is the baptistery, leading to the chapter-house, an octagonal building, receiving its light through as many windows as it contains sides. Its roof rests upon a column springing from the centre of the floor, and branching out to the walls. The remains of this noble temple, a mournful monument of neglect and violence, attest its former magnificence. It was once graced with five towers and spires, and measured in length 264 feet, and in breadth, from one extremity of the transept to the other, 114 : the height of the central tower and spire was 198.

The foundation-stone was laid in 1224. Fragments of the bishop's palace adjoin those of the cathedral.

The bishops of Murray resided, previous to the erection of the cathedral and palace of Elgin, at an ancient palace, the remains of which yet exist on the shore of Loch Spynie. Elgin is a collegiate charge, which allows a second officiating minister. The service of the kirk is now performed in the chapel of the Seceders, who have liberally offered the use of it while the old church is rebuilding; a gratifying instance of the respect paid to the Established Church by a very powerful body of dissenters. There is an English Episcopalian chapel in Elgin. A few Catholics reside here, probably stragglers from the numerous colony in the neighbourhood of Fochabers, formed under the fostering influence of the family of the Duke of Gordon.

Near Elgin, on a spot most happily selected for monastic retreat, is the priory of Pluscardine, once belonging to the Cistercian monks. It stands in a garden and lawn interspersed with trees. It is divided into two stories, the lower consisting of a kitchen, the refectory, an apartment of about one hundred feet in length, a sepulchral chamber containing several tombs, and a chapel at the north end of the building, retaining some of its beautiful windows, and traces of the frescoes which adorned its

walls. The nave was never finished. The chapter-house resembles that of Elgin in the style of its architecture. The upper story contains the dormitory, 114 feet in length, from which issues a small apartment, supposed to have been the prior's chamber, as it is furnished with the dais, or an elevation in the upper part of the floor. It contains a recess or stronghold, in which the rolls and public documents belonging to the monastery were probably preserved. The exterior of the building has lost much of its former picturesque appearance by being stripped of ivy; as the proprietor, Lord Fife, has followed up his predecessor's plan of converting the priory into a residence. The felicity of the situation, and the already existing materials, might well suggest such a project. But the traveller will discover little in the neat front and tasty decorations of a snug modern mansion, to compensate for the sacrifice of so exquisite a ruin. The chapel, it is hoped, will be spared, like that of Holyrood, or of Rothly Temple in Leicestershire, or rebuilt on the original plan.

Near Burgh Head, a promontory fortified by rude ramparts, supposed to be a stronghold of the Danes, are Duffus House, the seat of Sir W. Dunbar, and Gordon House, the property of Sir W. Gordon Cumming, which descended to him together with the title of Gordon. It is a large prison-like building, with grated windows, wings, and hanging

turrets. Some of the rooms of the mansion are large, and adorned with family pictures. Gordonstone belonged formerly to the Earls of Huntly, the last of whom, who lived here, quitted his tranquil and dignified retreat to serve the cause of King Charles the First, and was beheaded for his loyalty.

Much grey-stone is exported from this coast from two small harbours, and was now despatched directly to St. Katherine's Dock. Some caves are shown, in one of which the Gordons of Gordonstone concealed their horses when the Highlanders of Moray descended for the purpose of a *creagh*.

The great estuary of this part of the coast is the Spey, famous for its timber and its salmon, and near its bank, the spacious front of Gordon Castle occupies a commanding and appropriate position. Further onward is Cullen House the residence of Lord Seafield. Its situation is beautiful, at the entrance of a glen, along which rushes a torrent, crossed by a single arch spanning a deep abyss. It is a large pile of building, consisting of two sides of a square, with turrets at the angles. The apartments are spacious, and contain a few good pictures, and portraits of the families of Seafield and Findlater, whose respective earldoms are united, together with the chieftainship of the clan Grant, in the present family.

Several instances of personal attachment to this

house have been shown by the clan. On the occasion of some tumults, the clan, entertaining some apprehensions for the safety of a sister of Lord Seafield, the late Lady Ann Grant, rose in a body from their glens, and made a muster which recalled the remembrance of feudal times. This lady possessed a fine person, as her portrait indicates, noble manners, and an amiable disposition, and was much beloved. The king, on seeing her at his drawing-room at Holyrood House, observed that the enthusiasm of her clan on her behalf, as he had just heard the above anecdote, did not surprise him. Her recent loss was deeply regretted. The windows of the house were closed on the melancholy event; and her body was destined to lie in state here previous to interment.

The ruins of the old castle of Findlater may still be seen on a sea-beat rock, projecting from a coast broken into ten thousand fantastic shapes. Further on is the old castle of the Ogilvies, ancestors of the Earls of Findlater. Lord Seafield's property extends nearly to Banff. This neat town is on the bank of the river Doveran, which is crossed by a fine bridge, and has the advantage of a harbour. Duff House near it, Lord Fife's, is a spacious and lofty square mansion, built of stone, in the style of architecture belonging to the commencement of the last century, decorated on its four sides by high pilastered porticoes of the

Corinthian order. The interior corresponds with the exterior in grandeur. It contains a magnificent collection of portraits by original masters, forming a continued series of the different kings and queens, members of the royal families, and other illustrious eminent personages from the reign of Henry the Fifth to the present day.

The coast eastward of Banff, though not lofty is highly picturesque for some miles, when its red cliffs attain a considerable height, forming the bold promontory of Trouphead. In a cove of this coast a gentleman has amused himself by erecting a small battery, capable of beating off a privateer. The sea here rolls through a long passage in the rock, which from the peculiar blackness of the material, and the hollow roar of the water is significantly called Hell's Lum.

The country towards Fraserburg is treeless, and the houses are generally tiled. The Doveran is the boundary of those fir-forests, which have been extensively planted eastward of Inverness.

Fraserburg, the property of Lord Saltoun, was built by his ancestor, Sir Alexander Fraser, of Philorth, in the sixteenth century. The mausoleum of this family adjoins the church. A snug harbour, the average depth of which is fourteen feet, impracticable at low water, opens eastward into a bay formed by Kinnaird Head, the north-east point of this angle of Scotland, and another

promontory to southward of it. On the Head a light-house, with a single fixed light, is erected; the house on which the tower is placed, was once the residence of the Saltoun family, the panel above the door bearing the inscription, "Alexander, Lord Saltoun, 1740." About four miles to southward rises Mormount, the highest hill of Buchan, elevated about 800 feet, a noted sea-mark. The general level of this country is low; and it is so wind-swept, that trees are not easily reared upon it, and except around the houses of the gentry, are seldom seen. Even the hardy larches and sycamores are stunted in their growth.

The old style of architecture is preserved in the interior as well as exterior of Philorth: the apartments are wainscoted: the dining-room contains a series of family portraits. The Lord Saltoun of the day, joined the Pretender in 1745, and took refuge, whilst his house was searched, in a closet, where he narrowly escaped death, for his pursuers pierced the door with their swords, perforating his garments, but happily inflicting no injury on his person.

The large and handsome town of Peterhead is remarkable as being built, from the mansions of the wealthy to the meanest hut, of the fine granite with which the coast abounds. It owes its origin to George, Earl Marischal in A.D. 1593, the same person who founded Marischal College at Aber-

deen, and, together with the surrounding lands, belongs to an excellent charitable institution at Edinburgh,—the Merchant Maidens' Hospital. The poor in Peterhead are supported entirely out of the produce of congregational collections, fines for immorality, and the contributions of friendly societies.

The harbour of Peterhead was excavated with great difficulty : it contains sixteen feet of water at high tide ; a bar renders the entrance hazardous when a swell of the sea sets in. Vessels awaiting the high water usually avail themselves of the good roadstead in the bay : sometimes as many as sixty are seen collected there, remaining secure except during a strong east wind. The bay is commanded by a battery, which beat off some privateers, whilst entering it in chase of vessels, during the last war. There is a light-house on Buchan-Ness, three miles to south of Peterhead, a point connected with the coast by means of an arched dyke. Peterhead has gradually extended its whale-fishery, fitting out but a single vessel for many years previous to 1802 ; only two, during some years subsequent ; and at length augmenting the number to its actual amount of thirteen. The largest carries 400 tons ; its cargo this year amounted to 300 tons of oil, besides whale-bone: of this article one of the vessels imported to the value of 3000*l*. Besides these fine ships, there were several others employed in the general trade

or in the fishery ; cod and herring being caught here. The complement of a whale-ship consists usually of fifty men, of whom the half is supplied by Orkney and Shetland. It must be said in justice to the inhabitants of Peterhead, that notwithstanding the filth brought into the harbour by the whale-ships, which were now all in the harbour, the town is kept in a cleanly state. The pilots of this port are celebrated. Peterhead is resorted to for sea-beathing; and for the mineral water, which is a strong tonic. The Pretender landed at this port in 1715. The history of the town, and its present state, and of the adjacent coast, are roughly sketched in a singular and entertaining work, called the *Annals of Peterhead*, written and printed by a native of the name of Buchan, a copy of which was presented to the king by the author, and received his majesty's thanks in a letter of acknowledgment.

There is much grandeur in the coast below Peterhead. The Bullars are renowned: a passage perforating a rock, which has the appearance of an arch resting on two massy buttresses, and penetrating to a circular basin enclosed by precipitous rocks. And on a wild adjacent promontory stands the mansion of the Hereditary High-Constable of Scotland, Lord Errol, Slains Castle, a gloomy, barrack-like edifice, bidding defiance from the beetling brow of the cliff to the raging ocean, which

often during a storm batters its walls, and covers its roof with spray. It is built in the shape of a quadrangle, consisting of two stories; the upper is furnished with a gallery into which the various apartments open.

CHAPTER XVII.

ABERDEEN, CATHEDRAL, UNIVERSITY, HARBOUR,
TRADE, MORALS, CASTLE FRASER, THE DON,
STONEHAVEN, DUNOTTAR CASTLE, THE MEARNES.

THE Don and the Dee run parallel to each other for some miles before they reach the sea: forming the opposite boundaries of the old and new town of Aberdeen. The houses of the latter are high, arranged in broad streets, built of free-stone from the neighbouring quarries. The situation of the cathedral is most happily selected, erected on an open area, at the extremity of the old town, upon a high wooded bank of the river Don, which flows through a broad green meadow, till it loses itself amongst grassy sand-hills, opposing a long barrier to the inroads of the sea. It is a ponderous pile of building, surmounted by two low pyramidal towers. The western entrance has a heavy Saxon door, under a window divided into seven lancet compartments. There is nothing in the interior worthy of notice.

Near the cathedral is King's College, built in the quadrangular form. It was founded in the early part of the fifteenth century. Its endowments are meagre, and not likely to increase, as by the Scotch statutes of mortmain, the universities cannot possess

landed property. A recent attempt of King's College to obtain some land bequeathed to it by Mr. Hutton, under the legal fiction of holding it in *trust*, was considered, on being referred by appeal to the House of Lords, as evasive of the law. The Scotch Parliament, by the statute in question, struck a blow at the ecclesiastical cupidity which had engrossed so large a portion of the landed property of the kingdom; but exhibited the same unsparing severity in this measure, as in its whole scheme of reformation. While the revenues of the church were so cut down as to be utterly inadequate to the support of a parochial ministry, the funds for educating the clergy and others were also reduced to the lowest possible amount. The college and cathedral fortunately escaped the destruction of which so many other sacred edifices were victims. The University of Aberdeen expects to receive, if the validity of the will be established, a portion of Mr. Farquhar's legacy, a great part of which is destined to increase the salaries of the schoolmasters in this country. The intention of founding a college upon infidel principles, imputed to this gentleman, he disclaimed, as absolute folly, in the presence of one of the professors.

In the college are apartments for the use of the professors, who only occasionally occupy them, residing chiefly in the town; two large rooms used on public occasions; an apartment destined for the reception

of a museum ; lecture-rooms ; an observatory commanding a good horizon ; and a library. This contains about 20,000 volumes, receiving, in right of its prior foundation, the books to which the two colleges of this university are jointly entitled under the copyright. The chapel, on one side of the quadrangle, is ornamented by a tower, supported on four arched stones, a very handsome piece of architecture, and a cross. The interior is cased by finely executed woodwork. A flag-stone in the pavement covers the remains of Hector Boëthius, the first principal of the university.

The number of students in both colleges, of which King's College has the greater part, amounts to about seven hundred. The session lasts five months ; there are four classes, each of which is attended during a year. The candidates for holy orders attend theological lectures during four years more. The lectures are read by the professors, who are ten in number, besides the principal ; some of them deliver three in the day. The Greek language forms the subject of the first year. The subjects of the lectures in the subsequent years of the course are, Natural and Moral Philosophy, Rhetoric, &c. The Cambridge mathematics are partly used.

The students are required to attend prayers, which are read every morning in the hall. They reside chiefly in the old town, and their morals are subject to no further superintendence than that

which the professors can be supposed to exercise in directing their studies, requiring their attendance at lectures and prayers, and in that general observation of their behaviour, which residence in the same part of the town would enable them to afford. The practice of private, in aid of public, tuition, so general in the English universities, is unknown at Aberdeen. Yet the professors give a favourable report of the conduct of the students, not wholly acquitting them of the charge of vice and profligacy*. Their regularity and morality may be attributed in part to their poverty: the students are generally sons of farmers or of clergymen, who can barely pay the expenses of their education and living; and therefore have literally nothing to spend in dissipation, or even amusements; whilst their future subsistence depends on their rigid economy and diligence. No small portion of the merit of their conduct arises also from the qualities which form so essential an ingredient in the Scottish character, thoughtfulness, prudence, and a steady prosecution of remote advantage to

* The Rev. H. Cooke, moderator of the Synod of Ulster, bears equally favourable testimony to the conduct of the students at Glasgow:—"I was educated for the ministry in Glasgow; I have known ill-conducted students at both Glasgow and Belfast; I have also known students, and that the great majority, of the most exemplary character in both places.—*Evidence before the Committee of the House of Commons.*

the exclusion of temporary and incidental gratification. What would be the astonishment of a Scottish student, who seldom mounts a horse, the keep or even the hire of which is beyond his scanty means, on meeting, at the entrance of one of our universities, the troops of mounted cavaliers who usually issue forth after lectures? Some colleges at Oxford and Cambridge, probably, muster more fox-hunters, than all the universities of Scotland together do riders.

Marischal College is in the new town, completely hemmed in by houses: a dismal, prison-like structure, consisting of three sides of a quadrangle. This college has a library, observatory, and a museum. It was founded by George Keith, Earl of Marischal, about sixty years subsequent to the foundation of King's. The Royal commissioners have, it is said, formed the project of uniting the two colleges; but the plan is opposed by nearly all the professors. The University of Aberdeen formerly possessed a civil power, independent of the town magistracy, and corresponding in some degree with that of our university; but in lieu of this distinct authority, it is represented by one of its members holding a seat in the town council.

From the professors of Aberdeen I received much kindness and hospitality. They spoke much, and with much accuracy of information and candour, of the system of education adopted in our univer-

sities ; and evinced an honest pride in the celebrity of those champions of truth, Camphell and Reid, who, assisted by their associate, Beattie, withstood within the walls of their university the sophistry and infidelity which, under the auspices and direction of Hume, had become fashionable in Scotland*.

Aberdeen may boast of a school of metaphysicians who maintained, in defiance of deceptive sophistry and sceptical insinuations, the principles of common sense and of religion : and whilst they allowed the subtle and inflexible adversary with whom they contended to combat the phantoms conjured up by the metaphysicians of the old school, and to enjoy the satisfaction of his heartless triumph, they drew a rampart around truth, from which his keenest shafts fell innoxious to the ground.

The entrance to the harbour of Aberdeen is at some distance from the town and is protected, on one side, by the promontory of Girdleness, and on the other by a pier, parallel to it, built of fine granite, the produce of neighbouring quarries, which advances far into the sea, leaving a broad intervening channel navigable only at high water. Thousands of pounds have been expended in fruitless efforts to remove the bar at the entrance. There is also frequently much difficulty in making the entrance, and certain destruction in the event

* See Forbes's *Memoirs of Beattie*.

of failure in a heavy gale. The pier would form an agreeable promenade to the natives of Aberdeen, if the road to it did not pervade the dirty lanes, or fetid store-yards of the maritime part of the town. The stench of this quarter told the joyful tale of the safe return of the whale-ships.

The harbour of Aberdeen is large and deep. The following returns of the shipping will illustrate, at different periods, the comparative state and progressive increase of the trade.

In 1788,	Number of vessels registered,	169,	Tonnage	11,820
„ 1818,	{ Ditto, including transport- service and war additional, }	237,	„	36,471
„ 1821,		222,	„	34,235

Of this quantity, in the estimate for 1821, four thousand were employed in the whale-fishery; five thousand in foreign trade between Aberdeen and London: and the remainder in the coal, lime, and coasting trades. The exportation of granite, chiefly to London, constitutes a principal and extensively-flourishing staple of the Aberdeen trade; it is found very useful in the Macadamizing of the streets. The vessels which export the granite import coal, which is consequently sold here at a moderate rate. The cotton-wool and other manufactures of Aberdeen are thriving, and did not suffer by the general distress which affected the other manufacturing towns of Great Britain.

The great progressive improvements both in the

town and county of Aberdeen, as well as in all the northern and other parts of Scotland, must be dated from the increase and amendment of the roads. Since 1797 it is estimated that about half a million sterling has been expended on roads and harbours by this town and county. The general improvement of estates has followed as a necessary consequence: and the value of the land has been enhanced, particularly in this county, by the competition for it amongst persons returning with fortunes from India; officers of the army and navy, and the mercantile community.

The salmon-fishery in the neighbouring rivers, the Don and the Dee, has contributed to the general wealth. The stake-nets have been used by the proprietors at the mouth of the former; but in the latter the sea has proved too rough for them.

The opportunities afforded me of making inquiries respecting the morals of the people, in the neighbourhood of Aberdeen, elicited results certainly very unfavourable to them, and exhibiting a striking contrast with the morals of the Highlanders. A gentleman residing a few miles from Aberdeen assured me that during the seventeen years, which he had passed in his present abode, he had known only four instances of women marrying who were not in a state of pregnancy. The minister of the same parish declared to me that he knew but one female in that and the neighbouring parish, who had not

married under such circumstances. An episcopalian minister at Aberdeen informed me that, in the first year in which he took charge of his congregation, sixty-one illegitimate children were offered to him for baptism. It is acknowledged that the fathers are invariably willing to make the only reparation in their power to the partners of their guilt.

The Scottish law, by legitimatizing children retrospectively, must be held in part responsible for the prevailing profligacy. This law, it is urged by its advocates, is civil in its character, and does not determine on the immorality of the act on which it bestows its sanction, cognizance of which is or ought to be taken by the church, and punished by fines and penance. But does the Church invariably inflict its penalty? and is that penalty followed by permanent effects? To these questions a different answer might be given, if applied to a Highland parish, or to a Lowland parish in the neighbourhood of a town. The discipline of the Church is administered differently in different parts of the country: whilst its moral influence varies according to the ever-fluctuating measure of popular estimation in which it is regarded. On the other hand, the indemnity held out by the law is conclusive, and the value attached to it is proved by the universal readiness of the people to avail themselves of it. In those parts of Scotland in which the social

condition of the people has become assimilated to that of the English, they are probably not more under the influence of religion than the latter, though from their habitual decency of deportment, and regard to the externals of religion, a contrary inference might be drawn.

At Aberdeen there is a spacious chapel belonging to the English episcopalians. An attempt has been made, and with success in some places, as for instance at Peterhead, to unite the Scottish and English episcopalians, between whom there is little difference, except that the former consider themselves more orthodox, and look down upon the latter as comparatively *low church*. The ministers of the English episcopalians are ill-paid in Scotland, especially since the loss of an annual grant of 1000*l.* which the late Mr. George Rose procured for them. It must be observed, in reference to the small income of the episcopalian clergy, that it goes much further in Scotland than in England. A gentleman in this neighbourhood assured me that his bills for eating, for four persons in his dining-room, and four servants, amounted to only sixteen shillings in the week; and he lived as comfortably as his neighbours. In general, the servants fare much less luxuriously in Scotland than in England, and the English servant is the chief sufferer from the change of diet in a Scottish tour.

In the neighbourhood of the Don, near Aber-

deen, is a fine specimen of the old square tower, Castle Fraser, which has but one rival in Scotland. It descended to its present proprietor, Colonel Fraser, from his grand-uncle, Charles Fraser, who commanded the clan Fraser, at Culloden, and fell in the battle. His father, general Mackenzie Fraser, a man singularly beloved and respected, raised the 78th regiment.

Near Castle Fraser, the river bursts, with the rapidity of a torrent, from a thickly-wooded pass: and near its bank is a spot belonging to Sir Archibald Grant, the singular beauty of which has fairly entitled it to its appellation of Paradise: a lawn enclosed by forest-trees, and traversed by an avenue of larch-trees, which are second in height only to the two first planted at Dunkeld. Their broken ranks attest, in a remarkable manner, the ravages of the west wind, which rushing through the pass as through a funnel, has overthrown those which stood nearest to the outlet, and some in the more sheltered part of the line. An Abbey once stood on this delightful spot, than which fancy could scarcely picture one better suited for monastic retreat. Between Moneymusk and Paradise is the ruined Castle of Pitfichi, formerly the seat of Forbes of Pitsligo, who forfeited the title in 1715.

I attended Divine service in the episcopal chapel at Moneymusk: the congregation, as usual, consisted chiefly of the upper classes,—the gentry

of the neighbourhood being almost all of that persuasion.

On the opposite side of the river, resides Mr. Leslie, a Roman Catholic gentleman, who has built, on his own grounds, a college for the education of priests, to which it is said the establishment of Lismore will be removed.

The premature setting in of winter prevented me from visiting the scenery of the upper part of the Don. On the 21st of October, there had been a heavy fall of snow : and on the 24th, it was leg deep, in some places !

The most remarkable object on the coast south of Aberdeen is the noble castle of Dunottar, near the little town of Stonehaven ; a remnant of the ancient property of the Earls Marischal ; built during the contests between the Bruces and Baliols. It stands at the extremity of a deep and precipitous gorge, in a bay of an iron-bound coast, covering with its ruined pile, and encircling with its ramparts, a rugged, lofty, and apparently inaccessible promontory, terminating in a far-projecting bulwark of broken crags. The only approach to this formidable strong-hold is by a narrow isthmus, which joins it to the coast, and the only entrance is by an aperture in the perpendicular face of the rock, barred by a gate, and surrounded by loopholes for cannon.

An arched groove within the gateway indicates

the site of the portcullis, which Wallace is said to have moved with his single arm, a feat requiring the exertion of six other men. He entered the castle through an aperture in its southern side, and committed great cruelties on the besieged. Opposite the entrance of the gateway is the wall of the guard-room perforated like the external walls by loop-holes, in which cannon were formerly planted. Two sally-ports communicate with the interior of the castle, opening into a spacious platform, on which batteries were erected; overlooked by a row of buildings divided into a double set of apartments, the one for the use of the officers, and the other of the tradesmen of the garrison: for the castle maintained within itself all the accommodations of a well-furnished town; and above the shops is a long gallery used anciently as a ball-room.

The dwelling-house of the marischal forms in conjunction with this building a court-yard, formerly furnished with a deep well; and in a seat in the corner of one of its windows fronting the platform the chief could superintend the exercise of his soldiers. The apartments are numerous, and overlook the sea; and beneath them, so little did immediate contact with wretchedness and suffering affect the nerves, or disturb the gaiety of the lords and ladies of a more warlike age, is the long dungeon, which resounded not unfrequently with the groans of tormented prisoners. In this gloomy receptacle,

according to history, and the concurrent testimony of a monument in the churchyard of Dunottar, the clergy of the Covenanters were subjected to rigorous imprisonment, and even tortures. Holes in the walls are still pointed out in which the hands of these unfortunate sufferers were painfully fixed by iron wedges. Those who did not perish from ill treatment made a desperate attempt to escape, by creeping through an aperture in the vault, and climbing down the precipitous face of the rocks which form the basis of the castle. Their mangled remains were carried to the churchyard of Dunottar, and buried in the same grave with their fellow-sufferers who had died in prison. The monuments record the names of several men and some women, dating the tragic circumstance A.D. 1685.

In the neighbourhood of Dunottar there is a cairn, which contains, according to tradition, the remains of Malcolm the Second, king of Scotland, who fell in battle in the Mearns, on his return from Morayshire, where he had committed great depredations. Colonel Duff, of Fetteresso Castle, on opening it, found beneath a broad flag-stone a stone coffin encasing a body : the hair, which was long, and overspread with an ornament of fine lace-work, was, when first discovered, in a perfect state of preservation. Colonel Duff has protected this monument

with a fence, and converted the area, within the enclosure, into a garden.

The house of Urie was pointed out to me, the residence of Barclay, the celebrated apologist for the Quakers, and at present of his no less renowned descendant, the pedestrian, and skilful agriculturist.

The coast southward of Dunottar rises gradually, attaining its utmost elevation at Fools' Heugh, a lofty pile of beetling precipices.

The river Bervie, descending from high and dreary hills, waters the Lowlands and the Mearns: its bank is adorned, on a pleasant spot, by the house, terraces, gardens and woods of Lord Arbuthnot, lord-lieutenant of the county. The North Esk,—Montrose, its harbour and whale-fishery,—Aberbrothick and its red-stone ruins,—and Dundee, the Lausanne of Scotland, on the sloping, sheltered, northern shore of its firth, surrounded by gardens and villas, I must consign to the *Itinerary*. The general aspect of the country on this road is, save in the immediate vicinity of the seats of the gentry, treeless as when Johnson beheld it.

CHAPTER XVIII.

ST. ANDREW'S, CATHEDRAL, CASTLE, CHURCHES,
UNIVERSITY, EDUCATION, CLERGY, HARBOUR,
BELL-ROCK LIGHT-HOUSE, FIFESHIRE.

My sketches of the eastern coast of Scotland shall be concluded with some account of St. Andrew's, where I enjoyed for several days, within the walls of what was once St. Leonard's College, the hospitality of Dr. Chalmers, professor of Moral Philosophy in this university, though recently appointed to the Theological chair at Edinburgh. No one can pretend to have seen Scotland, in the sense in which the expression is commonly used by travellers, who has not visited St. Andrew's. Yet few, of the myriads of tourists who flock to that country, have enjoyed this gratification. The picturesque situation of the city ; the extent, diversity, and grandeur of the remains of its ancient secular and ecclesiastical establishments ; the importance of the events which they attest ; the celebrity which it has derived from the records of historians, and the descriptions of topographical writers, in vain allure them from the more beaten tracks. So rarely are they seen within the deserted streets of St. Andrews, that no coach runs directly to it ; and the only public accommodation provided for them on their arrival, is a miserable little inn, or rather pot-house.

This want of curiosity or of good taste is easily explained,—St. Andrew's affords no thoroughfare: its inhabitants do not attract strangers by their industry, wealth, or gaiety: and the monuments of its former greatness, from which it derives its importance, have not borrowed adventitious and imaginary interest from the illusions of genius. Whilst a tale of gramary, or love, will draw thousands to Melrose or Loch Katrine, few are willing to read the history of Popish ascendancy, or Protestant reformation, amidst the ruins of St. Andrew's.

Yet what expectation can be more unfounded, than that of realizing more completely a fictitious transaction, by repairing to the supposed scene of its occurrence? A visit, even by moonlight, to Melrose, instead of bringing more fully before us the vision, which the very mention of this storied pile suggests to the fancy, dissolves it at once, by subjecting it to the touchstone of truth; while the scene of real events, whether domestic, heroic, or sacred, awakens all the emotions which belong to it. "That man is little to be envied whose patriotism would not gain force on the plain of Marathon, or whose piety would not grow warmer amid the ruins of Iona*."

* These observations on the illusions of fancy may seem to be at variance with some remarks in the Introductory

St. Andrew's stands on the shores of a rocky and dangerous bay, about a mile southward of the estuary of the river Eden. A massy but elegant gateway forms its western entrance. Many of the ancient houses of the town, and among the rest, that inhabited by John Knox, still remain, ornamented by turrets, and coats of arms; indicating the rank and family of those by whom they were occupied; and also the past prosperity of those days of ecclesiastical and monastic grandeur, in the splendour, as in the decline of which, the town has necessarily participated. Its three long, broad, and parallel streets, are terminated eastward by the abbey-wall, which encloses the cathedral and other ancient edifices; and by the adjacent ruins of the castle, overhanging the bay. These buildings, or those of which they occupy the site, have been the scene of many important events in Scottish history. It was within the walls of St. Andrew's that

Chapter of this work, on the effects of the poems of Sir Walter Scott, in attracting visitors to the scenes of his fictions. But this contrariety is only apparent. The scenes alluded to derive their charm, partly no doubt from the fictions, but principally from the peculiar skill with which the poet has invested their natural features with the splendid colouring of his pencil, without distorting or exaggerating them. Had he claimed the license of representing imaginary scenery, as well as ideal transactions, the deception would have been speedily detected: and the traveller would not have sought it out in quest of certain disappointment.

Edward the First received the tender of allegiance from the Scottish Parliament, after the battle of Falkirk; and Robert Bruce, eleven years afterwards, the recognition of his title to the throne. It was the seat of the primacy*. Here the flame of persecution was kindled at the commencement of the fifteenth century. Buchanan was imprisoned in the castle: Knox shared the same fate, taught the reformed doctrines, and administered the first sacrament according to the Protestant ritual, within its walls in 1547; and from hence he was carried, by a French fleet, to the gallies in the same year, upon the castle being besieged and taken.

It was on board the vessel in which he was prisoner off this coast, that he made his memorable reply to Sir James Balfour, who pointed out to him St. Andrews, “Yes, I know it well; for I see the steeple of that place, where God first opened my mouth in public to his glory; and I am fully persuaded I shall not depart this life, till that my tongue shall glorify his godly name in the same place†;” and he fulfilled his prediction, by delivering from the pulpit of the parish-church, that sermon which produced the demolition of the cathedral, accomplished partly by the mob, infuriated by his eloquence, and partly by the sacrile-

* Its population amounted at that time to 20,000.—*Lawson's Roman Catholic Church in Scotland.*

† Macrie, I. 70.

gious cupidity of succeeding generations. The last event which may be mentioned, as connected more particularly with episcopacy, the assassination of Archbishop Sharp, the primate, was perpetrated by the enemies of episcopacy, near the gate of the town, in 1679.

Of the cathedral remain half the western gable; a portion of the south wall of the nave, exhibiting, by the varieties of its architecture, the different periods at which the church was built (the western half being Gothic, the eastern Norman); and the eastern wall, of which the great window and turrets are still standing, together with part of the north transept. Much of the ruins was rescued, about two years ago, from the dust of ages, at the expense of the Exchequer. On the removal of the earth which had accumulated upon the pavement to the height of six feet, many tombs were discovered, containing stone coffins, several of which enclosed the bodies of bishops; together with the foundations of the columns of the nave and transept, having been thus preserved from progressive dilapidation. Those of the transept consisted of clustered groups of detached columns. The western entrance, which had been half buried, was opened, and arches, flights of steps, and vaults, were exposed to view. The whole building measured 350 feet in length, and was crowned by the lofty steeple already alluded to.

Near the cathedral is a square tower, 106 feet in height, to which is attached a small apartment called the chapel of St. Regulus, who, directed, it is said by a vision, repaired A.D. 370 to Scotland, bearing home relics of St. Andrew, accompanied by a band of monks and virgins, and having been shipwrecked in the bay, fixed his abode on this spot. Thus St. Andrew acquired his posthumous title to the post of patron-saint of Scotland. St. Regulus enjoys the reputation of having converted the Pictish monarch, who ruled the country, as well as of founding the order of Culdees, and long maintained St. Andrew's against the attempts of the Papists to dispossess them. The solid construction of the edifice proves its great antiquity, and has induced a modern architect to ascribe its erection to the Romans.

A cemetery occupies the greater part of the area within the abbey walls; and a corner of it is appropriated to the professors of the university, many of whom lie buried here. The abbey wall is terminated at intervals by turrets, and has still three gateways standing, one of which opens on the western extremity of the cathedral, and the other on the port.

The roofless remains of the once magnificent priory, which adjoins the abbey wall, still exhibit traces of elegant architecture, and of alterations made at different periods.

The castle occupies the site of the ancient castle, in which the primates resided, destroyed in 1567: it is in a ruinous state, consisting of a great number of apartments, vaults, and dungeons, surrounding an extensive area. Among these is the celebrated *sea-tower*, containing a dismal hole of forty feet in depth, excavated out of the rock, in which many of the reformers were immured, and poor Wishart passed the night previous to his execution; and there also the body of Beatoun was deposited, as John Knox tells us, after having, as he says, "*written merrily*," on the subject of his assassination. "As his funeral could not be suddenly prepared, it was thought best, to keep him from spoiling, to give him great salt enough, a cope of lead, and a corner in the sea tower (a place where many of God's children had been imprisoned before), to wait what obsequies his brethren, the bishops, would prepare for him."

The window is pointed out from which Cardinal Beatoun is *said* to have witnessed the execution of Wishart, and to have been afterwards suspended himself*.

Another remnant of ecclesiastical splendour is the ruined chapel of the monastery of the Black-Friars, which was involved, together with the

* The present castle was not built until some years after the cardinal's death.—*Lawson, &c.*

cathedral, and the other monastery of the Grey-Friars, in one common destruction. It is a very elegant specimen of Gothic architecture: the windows and part of the roof are still remaining. It is kept in a very filthy state.

The parish-church, a capacious building, contains a lofty monument erected to the memory of Archbishop Sharp, by the piety of his son; exhibiting in bas-relief an accurate and skilful representation of the murder of the prelate, who appears kneeling on the ground, held back by two ruffians, whilst his daughter is descending from the carriage, vainly imploring their mercy. The barbarous deed was perpetrated at a place called Magus Muir, about three miles to the south-west of St. Andrew's: it is said that the prelate spent his last moments, in imitation of his Saviour, in praying for his murderers. The parish-church of St. Leonard's is considered the university-church, and is attended by the students: it is calculated for 2400 persons.

Of the Scottish universities, that of St. Andrew's is the most ancient. It was founded in 1410, on the plan of that of Paris, being engrafted upon the Pedagogy, which still remains, and forms part of St. Mary's, or the new college. The pedagogies were seminaries for the instruction of students in grammar and sophistry, formed in the twelfth century; which gave way to the more complete establishment

of the universities. In 1455, St. Salvator's College was founded by Bishop Kennedy: St. Leonard's, in 1512, and both were merged in one on the suppression of the latter, in 1747: and, in 1538, the ancient pedagogy, which formed the groundwork of the university, was enlarged, and designated St. Mary's College. St. Leonard's is partly enclosed by the Abbey wall, and adjoins the Priory. St. Salvator's stands in the centre of the town. The exterior of this college may vie, in stately and sober dignity, with that of several of the colleges of the English universities. It forms a quadrangle, is cloistered on one side, and is surmounted by a tower and spire 156 feet in height: and the Chapel is a beautiful Gothic edifice, forming a line with the principal and southern gateway.

The Chapel contains the tomb of Bishop Kennedy, an elegant and costly structure: some silver maces found within it are preserved. The wooden pulpit in which John Knox preached, probably the sermon which led to the destruction of the Cathedral and monasteries, is shown in a low building now used as a school.

The interior of the court is mean: and the lecture-rooms are small and low, and ill-suited to the purpose. The medals formerly bestowed annually on the successful candidates among the students for the archery prize, are here preserved. On one side the coat-of-arms of the prize-man is figured: and on the

reverse, sometimes a portrait of the archer himself. These medals commemorate the first feats of the distinguished ancestors of some of the principal families of Scotland, among whom is enrolled the famous James, earl of Montrose, 1628. The old celebrated archery-ground, on which the prize-medals preserved in St. Salvator's College were won, is still seen, exhibiting in an amphitheatrical form the remnants of the seats occupied by the spectators.

The game of golf has now superseded the ancient archery, notwithstanding the act of the Scotch parliament, passed in 1457, prohibiting it, as interfering with the archery, which was needful for the defence of the state. St. Andrew's is considered the head-quarters of this national amusement. Its golf-links are the best in Scotland,—a tract of ground, two miles in length, consisting of grass-covered sand-hills, gently undulated, exactly adapted to the purpose, extending from the town to the bank of the river Eden. The golfer is provided with a club, curved at the end and armed with lead; and it is his object to strike a ball which is small and very hard, in as few strokes as possible, from one hole to another,—the holes being placed at an interval of four hundred yards. The persons attending as companions or instructors are called *cadies*, and wear a particular uniform. The amusement is of a steady, solemn kind, and unaccompanied by any of the

boisterous contention, or strong exercise, which characterize the English games of hockey, football, or cricket. The manufacture of golf-balls is a staple of the trade and exports of St. Andrew's.

St. Mary's is the theological college, and exclusively so, as at no other college are lectures on divinity delivered. The ancient part of the building is small, and rests on a cloister, enclosed between the library and the master's lodge. Dr. Haldane, its present principal, has steadily resisted a proposed plan of demolishing this venerable fabric, to make room for the extension of the library. This college contains the ancient Pedagogy. This building is a hall, the walls of which are cased with wooden panels, and the pavement is stone, but in a very rough and broken state. The students assemble in it for prayers and there is a pulpit for the purpose.

The library of St. Mary's college enjoys the privilege of the copyright, and contains 40,000 volumes, besides a reading-room where newspapers and reviews are taken in. Over the chimney-piece are portraits of Milton, Algernon Sidney, Ludlowe, A. Marvell, and other republicans. The proofs thus afforded of the political feelings once, at least, entertained by this university, no less unequivocal than those which the melancholy ruins of the cathedral and monasteries present of the fanatical spirit, once prevalent here, suggested to me a

probable cause of Dr. Johnson's irritability during his stay at St. Andrew's. For his temper improved as he advanced further on his tour, and at length, in the Hebrides, seems to have been so much mollified by the kindness and attention which he received in regions apparently so unpromising, that he acquired popularity by his demeanour as well as by his book. No justification can be offered for a sentence still on record against him here. One of the professors having ventured to express the hope, when the cloth was removed from the table at which he had been entertained, that he had had a good dinner, "Sir," he replied, "I came to Scotland, not to eat good dinners, but to see savages, and savage manners, and I have not been disappointed." Yet he acknowledges that the professors of St. Andrew's "gratified him by every mode of kindness, and entertained him with all the elegance of lettered hospitality, during the whole time of his stay."

St. Leonard's, since it ceased to be a college, has been divided into two dwelling-houses, one of which is occupied by Dr. Chalmers, and the other by another professor. The chamber which formed the study of the celebrated Buchanan, once principal of this college, is still shown: the only approach to it is by a ladder!

St. Leonard's College was the cradle of the Reformation. When the new doctrines began to spread, it became proverbial to say of any one

who was suspected of Lutheranism, that he had “drunk of St. Leonard’s Well.” In its yards John Knox subsequently held his first conference: and retreated within its walls at the close of his life. Mr. Macrie has quoted some interesting accounts of his residence here at the latter period. (Note Y., vol. ii.) The rector’s lodge is also standing, together with the old chapel: a small roofless building containing three monuments, and once adorned by a tower, which was lately pulled down by order of the magistrates. Of this chapel, Dr. Johnson, who resided, during his stay at St. Andrew’s, in the house now occupied by Dr. Chalmers, remarks that he was always prevented seeing it by some decent excuse.

The number of students at St. Andrew’s is less than that at any other of the Scottish universities; there being,

At Edinburgh	. . .	about 2200
Glasgow	. . .	1500
Aberdeen	. . .	450*
St. Andrew’s	. . .	250

St. Andrew’s declined considerably at one period, but recovered again, and has within a few years doubled its numbers. Dr. Johnson visited it during its lowest state of depression.

There is one peculiar feature in the system of St. Andrew’s, which distinguishes it from other

* This return is less than that which I received at Aberdeen.

Scottish universities, and assimilates it to the English; the division of the students into two classes, one of which is entitled to wear a finer gown, and pay higher fees than the other. The two classes are called *Seconders* and *Terners*. Formerly there was a *third*, called the *Primers*. To the above-mentioned privileges was attached another, that of faring at separate and better provided tables, when the meals were public. The distinction nearly corresponds with those of fellow or gentleman commoner, pensioner, and sizar at the English universities.

I enjoyed the opportunity of being present at Dr. Chalmers's lectures on Moral Philosophy and on Political Economy, the former the subject of his stated, the other of a voluntary, course.

The immediate topic of the latter lecture was Emigration. It contained the substance of a manuscript which he had addressed to Mr. Wilmot Horton, exposing the futility of depending on emigration, as an efficient check to population, from the tendency of population to fill up the void created, encouraged in England by the system of poor-laws; the evils of which he pointed out with close and eloquent reasoning. He concluded his lecture by dictating heads for future examination, on the subject of which he had treated. Dr. Chalmers adopts the Socratic mode of instructing his pupils by questions, as best calculated to produce self-instruction.

In his lecture on Moral Philosophy, Dr. Chalmers took a religious view of the subject, and as it accorded peculiarly with the bent of his mind and studies, enforced and illustrated it with all the force of his commanding and brilliant eloquence, and was often overpowered by the burst of applause from the students, notwithstanding his prompt and authoritative attempts to repress them. He established the inseparable connexion between Moral Philosophy and Religion, and laid down the latter as the basis of the former, maintaining that a sceptic respecting the truths of Christianity would be as incapable of teaching this science, as one who refused to admit the axioms of Euclid, would be of instructing in mathematical science.

On a subsequent morning, the students read essays on subjects connected with the past lectures, several of which were almost transcripts of the originals, indicating the memory rather than the genius of the writers. Their compositions were generally terse, closely and well argued, imitating, as might be expected, the defects as well as excellencies of their lecturer's style. Dr. Chalmers's criticisms on them were listened to with earnest attention, and served to guide the judgment of the students in awarding the prizes at the close of the session. Dr. Chalmers eulogized the almost invariable justice of their decisions.

I heard the same judgment on the fairness of the decisions of the students at Aberdeen; from the

professors of that university. A reason assigned for the superiority of this mode of determination, to that of intrusting it to the professors was, that as each student was required to show his problem, and if unable to perform his own exercises, it was necessary for him to borrow from others, the students were cognizant of impositions that might escape the professor. The experience of the lecture-rooms, in the English universities, would confirm the opinion of the judgment of the students; as, in general, they predict, with tolerable exactness, beforehand, the successful candidates for honours. There is one obvious objection to this system, that the constant habit of criticising inferior performances must produce a deteriorating effect on the taste and style of the students, in the same degree as the critical study of the best writers tends to elevate and improve it*.

The examinations at Aberdeen, I know not whether at the other universities, are carried on in private, as when held in public they are supposed to depend as much on the nerves as on the abilities of the students.

The stimulus to industry supplied at the Scottish universities is evidently far less powerful than that which results from the competition in and between

* On this method of awarding prizes, the Commissioners state, that they received such conflicting opinions, as to be unable to form a judgment upon it.

the several colleges in the English universities, and the emoluments and high distinction, which they offer as its reward.

The lecture-rooms are very small, and there is no prospect of their being enlarged, as it has been long the practice of the professors to eke out their small salaries, by appropriating to their own use particular fees, originally destined for the repairs and improvement of the college. Dr. Chalmers, while he thinks their salaries still, notwithstanding this addition, insufficient, refuses, on the ground of the misapplication, to receive his share of these fees ; and has submitted his reasons in a statement to the Royal Commissioners.

The salary of the theological professorship of Edinburgh, to which Dr. Chalmers has been just appointed, amounts to but 200*l.* per annum, without house, or any extra allowance ; whilst the chemical professorship, which is paid by fees, is ten times its amount.

The system of education in the Scottish universities, combines great excellencies with great defects. The former consist in its affording instruction on many subjects of intrinsic interest, and important in their bearing on the pursuits of after-life, to persons of all classes and religious denominations, at a moderate expense*.

* The following testimony to the Scottish Universities, borne by the Royal Commissioners, will supersede the neces-

Of the defects, which must occupy somewhat more of our consideration,—the first which attracts the attention lies at the root of the system. The education afforded is not adapted either to the age or to the proficiency of the students. The Greek language forms the subject of the first year's course. The professor in this department, at Aberdeen, complained to me bitterly of being compelled to delay the progress of his whole class, on account of the youth of many of the students, whose age did not exceed twelve years, and their frequent ignorance of even the letters of the Greek alphabet. Some of the students continue their study of the language after the close of the year: but the greater part of them pass on to the other subjects, with no further knowledge of the language than that which they have derived from the lectures. Some of them advance sufficiently to read a few plays: but the majority, except as far as they may have acquired

sity of my entering more fully on this part of the present inquiry. "From all our investigation, and from our separate reports on each university, it appears, that the Universities of Scotland have shown great diligence and zeal in the discharge of their duty, and that their labours have been crowned with distinguished success; that they have earned for themselves a high reputation in various departments of science and literature, and have eminently contributed to the general diffusion of knowledge, and the improvement of the character and habits of the people."—*Report.*

the habit of attention and industry, can derive little profit from their classical course*.

The study of the other branches of education is equally transient and imperfect†. And the know-

* Dr. Chalmers observes that the students, in the majority of cases, take their departure from the grammar-school, without even the first elements of Greek, and without being able to translate extemporaneously the easiest of our Latin authors. The radical error of the system, he attributes to the too early admittance of the youth to the universities. "They should be kept at least two or three years longer at drill; whereas, at present, they are handed over to the professor before the schoolmaster has finished his work upon them: and by the existing method of our university tuition, the one is in the worst possible circumstances for executing what the other has left undone." "We are weak throughout, because weak radically."—*On Endowments*.

† With such slender attainments, it is obvious that a second session, of five and a half or six months' continuance, even if devoted almost entirely to the most difficult of the ancient languages, cannot, in general, render the student of Greek a respectable scholar. But while he carries on the study of Latin and Greek under the disadvantages which have been mentioned, the course of study hitherto usually recommended and followed requires that a great portion of his time shall be given up to mathematics, while he has likewise to encounter the subtilties of the Aristotelian logic, or is plunged into the abyss of ancient and modern metaphysics. We consider this arrangement as inexpedient, keeping in view the age of the student, and the multiplicity and difficulty of the subjects to which his attention is directed, and we believe that it has been attended with prejudicial effects. It is not surprising that those very high attainments in classical literature, which dis-

ledge acquired, however various, cannot compensate for another defect of the Scottish system, in not assigning predominance to some one subject of instruction: with a view, not so much to the particular tendency of the subject selected to invigorate the moral and intellectual faculties, to enlarge the capacity, and to supply useful knowledge, as to the yet more important object of inuring the mind of the student to habits of protracted and persevering study,—to the acquisition of that moral cou-

tinguished some individuals in Scotland at the close of the sixteenth century, are no longer to be found; men's minds are now turned to more important and useful pursuits than consummate elegance in classical composition, but it is matter of regret that an intimate acquaintance with the classics, particularly the Greek authors, is not more general than it now is among the best educated classes of society in Scotland. Nor is this the only or worst defect in the present course of study. It is ill-contrived for its primary purpose, namely, to awaken and invigorate the intellectual powers, and to train the mind to the acquisition of knowledge. The culture of memory, at the age, and by means of the instruments, best adapted for the purpose, is in a great measure laid aside, in order that other faculties, of slower developement, may be called prematurely into action, while attention, or the habit of concentrating the thoughts, with patience and perseverance, on a single object, is impaired by a rapid and incessant change of pursuit. Compelled to leave his task unfinished, and his object unattained, the student acquires a habit of resting satisfied with superficial information, he becomes accustomed to desultory and abortive exertion, and is in danger of turning out a sciolist and smatterer in everything.—*Commissioners' Report.*

rage*, which can dare to be ignorant of many things, that it may more effectually master the main subject of its pursuit, and to the perception and comprehension of a *standard* by which he may appreciate proficiency, whether his own or that of others, in any subject.

The comparative merits of mathematics, logic, metaphysics, and other branches of study have been often discussed: the objections to the adoption of any one of them as the main object of study, apply chiefly to the exclusive use of it, to the rejection of other branches of instruction. The remarkable advantages resulting from a qualified preference of mathematics at the University of Cambridge, and of classics at Oxford, forcibly illustrate the importance of the principle for which I am contending. So far has the prolonged study of mathematics† at

* To this principle the author of the *Pursuits of Literature* has appealed powerfully, in urging young men to the diligent study of the Greek authors.

† It is well known that the University of Cambridge has, within a few years, enlarged the sphere of academical acquirement, without sacrificing the principal object of study. The *Edinburgh Review* has lately arraigned the Cambridge system on the ground of its preference of mathematics; but the gauntlet thrown down by the northern champion of a mere diffusive system, will probably be taken up by a powerful advocate of the school which he has assailed, one whose masterly *Bridgewater Treatise* proves that, however eminent are his attainments in the mathematics, he has formed no empirical or unphilosophical estimate of their value.

Cambridge, to take the instance apparently most liable to objection, been from incapacitating the student for his professional career, that his success in the latter usually corresponds with his previous academical acquirements. Though he may apparently have lost time in devoting several years to the toilsome ascent of the rugged steep of knowledge, uncheered by the prospect of any ulterior *professional* advantage resulting from his exertions, except as involved in the consciousness of maturing strength and expanding capacity, he discovers, when he at length descends to the arena of worldly competition, that he is girded, armed, and equipped for toil or conflict, and gradually outstrips his compeers, who preceded him in their career, but less adequately furnished for it.

I do not mean to deny that, at Cambridge, the student is stimulated to perseverance in studies withdrawing him from professional pursuits, and indemnified for the sacrifice, by appropriate and well-merited emoluments. The result of the postponement of professional studies for the purpose of qualifying the mind more thoroughly for its future vocation, affords practical and powerful evidence of the advantage derived from these endowments.

The defects in the Scottish system of education must be attributed principally to its subserviency to the taste and inclination of the students. Of these there are two classes: the one consisting of

those who attend the lectures during one or more sessions, for the purpose of education; and the other, of those who prosecute the whole course, educational and professional. The object of the former would be to obtain as much and as various knowledge, during the term of their attendance, as possible, without attempting profound and persevering study: the tendency of the other is to hasten forward to that part of their course which more immediately prepares them for their subsequent vocation. This disposition is strongly promoted by the general poverty of the students, no less than by the genius of the Scottish people, pertinaciously bent on practical utility and advancement. Now the aim of education should be to counteract these inducements; and to secure its own object, that of disciplining as well as informing the mind. It should control and mould the popular taste rather than be governed by it*.

* Dr. Chalmers has deduced a powerful argument in favour of endowments, from the low requirements of public taste, when not stimulated by these inducements, and elevated to the standard which they establish. So forcibly has the *pressure from without* operated on those intrusted with the charge of education in the Scottish Universities, that the Royal Commissioners found much difficulty in opposing a disposition on the part of several of them to lower still further the system of instruction, to meet the demand of poorer and inferior students; and in combating the opinions urged by some of the witnesses, whom they examined, that the Universities should be considered merely as supplementary to the parochial schools.

The subordination of the system of education to the demand of the students has been augmented by the nature of the endowments*. These, instead of being sufficiently ample to secure the independence of the system, as well as a high standard of merit in the professors, are exactly calculated to diminish it. The endowments are bursaries, of small value: they average in King's College, in Aberdeen, from 16*l.* to 18*l.* per annum†. And this sum nearly

which ought to be taken as the main and regulating system.
—*Report.*

* The Commissioners attribute the impoverishment of the professorships of St. Andrew's to the transfer, since the union, of the original endowments (the tithes of different parishes) from the Universities, in virtue of decrees of the Court of Teinds to the augmentation of the stipends of the parochial clergy. This was, with a vengeance, "robbing Peter to pay Paul." The Commissioners strongly recommend the attaching higher remuneration to the professorships, especially those of Theology, that they might become an object of ambition to the ministers of the Church of Scotland, the endowments being such as to enable them, without sacrifice, to surrender their benefices for one of those professorships, and thus to secure to the Universities persons of the highest attainments in the church, and to encourage the cultivation of those peculiar pursuits, which are necessary for the objects of these classes.

† The number of bursaries amounts in Aberdeen to about one to every third student; in St. Andrew's one to every fourth.—(*Commissioners' Report.*) The Commissioners mention the continual increase of this species of endowments; and animadvert strongly on the effect of them to attract poor and ignorant students to the Universities.

covers the students' expenses at that University; the cost of education amounting to about 30*l.* for the four years' course; that of board and lodging about 7*l.* per annum. Many of the students, both at Aberdeen and St. Andrew's, exhaust their small stock before the conclusion of the session, and are allowed to quit the University for the purpose of keeping a school, or providing other means of pursuing their future studies. The increase of that very class of students, who tend to lower the scale of proficiency, is thus encouraged by the endowments. They operate very much as the bounties did on the fishery: the students repair to the University for the sake of the bursaries, as persons resorted to the fishery to catch the bounty; and the effect in the two instances, is analogous,—that of augmenting the quantity at the expense of the quality of the competitors. The withdrawal of the bounty, in the instance of any branch of trade, will re-establish the value of the commodity which it furnishes: the raising the encouragement in the case of education, is necessary to preserve it from disparagement and depreciation*.

* Dr. Chalmers has ably pointed out the error sanctioned by high authority, of applying to education a mode of reasoning, because it holds good in matters of trade. The effect of the Scottish system of parsimonious endowments is to promote and ratify the evils resulting from the un-endowed system.

The increased facilities of communication by steam have augmented the mischief of a superfluity of poor students, especially at Glasgow. Belfast, from the same cause, has latterly produced a diversion, by attracting many students from the western parts of Scotland, who would otherwise have repaired to Glasgow.

To the mode of examining the students as to their proficiency in the progress of their studies, I have already adverted. The want of a close superintendence of the studies and proficiency of the individual students, is complained of by those charged with their education*.

* 'We admit,' observes Dr. Chalmers, 'that at present, and more especially in our higher classes, there is a lack of sufficient inspection over the progress of our students.'—*On Endowments*.

The errors and abuses which have grown up in the Universities, were partly attributable to the negligence of the government, in omitting to exercise its power of examining and controlling their proceedings. The Commissioners state, that 130 years had elapsed since the last general visitation; and during that period a material change had taken place in the circumstances of the country and the condition of society. The remedial measures which they propose are rather palliatives of the evils than calculated to produce any radical improvement of the system. They recommend the erection of a court of general superintendence in each University, composed of members, partly deriving their authority from extraneous appointment, partly officers of the University, and partly selected by the students themselves: the better arrangement of the course of study, assigning a longer period to the prose-

The commencement of the professional education of the student, while his knowledge on subjects of general education is elementary, crude, or imperfect, is the natural result of the ascendancy of the popular taste uncorrected by academical regulations

cution of classics,—the institution of prizes for the more effectual incitement of the diligence of the students,—the consolidation of future endowments,—and the augmentation of the salaries of the professorships, in order to secure a higher standard of instruction.

Dr. Chalmers's plan, as suggested to the Royal Commissioners, in a memorial which he addressed to them, and incorporated in his work on endowments, is more comprehensive and effectual. It embraces the whole scheme of education, from its commencement to its close. He proposes the establishment of a school, or gymnasium, at each University, at which the elementary parts of classics and mathematics might be taught; and that the students prepared at these establishments for their academical course, should enter upon it at a later period than at present. I found some of the professors inclined to prefer the establishment of a school at the large towns, to a gymnasium connected with each University; a plan approximating more nearly to that of the first reformers. (See *Macrie*, vol. ii. p. 10, and *First Book of Discipline*.)

He also recommends prizes and public examinations, and the consolidation of the endowments, with a view to diminish the numbers, and to raise the standard of the students, and the increase of the salaries of the professors.

"The college apparatus of Scotland," observes Dr. Chalmers, "is fully competent to such an effort,—to the effect of nurturing a hardy race of severe and sound thinkers in every branch of human speculation,—men of depth and substance, and firm staple,—and of far purer and wiser aim than to shine forth in the tiny lustre of those slender and superficial, but withal plausible, accomplishments, which have been said by

and provisions. The effect of the entire system is to produce a high average of sagacious mediocrity: to the severer mental discipline and more rigorous self-denial of the English universities, must be assigned the palm of exalted eminence*.

The remarks made on the defects of the education, whether preparatory or professional, in the Scottish universities, apply forcibly to the education of students destined for the church. They enter on their theological course too young and unqualified by previous instruction for the prosecution of it†.

our contemptuous friends in the south, to constitute all the philosophy of our nation.”—*On Endowments*.

The labours of the Commissioners have as yet, I believe, produced no result.

* The question of the comparative merits of the English and Scottish universities, is thus settled by a French traveller, whose deserved reputation has induced previous references to his work: “Edinbourg est le Birmingham de la littérature, un lieu nouveau qui a sa fortune à faire. Les deux grandes universités, Oxford et Cambridge, se reposent à l’ombre de leurs lauriers. Edinbourg cultive et fait croître les siens.”(!!!)

† The remarks made by Mr. Pusey on the theological education in the German universities, apply to that of the Scottish: “There is a want of a sufficient preparatory education before the study of theology is commenced, and the consequent unripeness of the theological student in age, in thought, and in discipline of mind, for the studies upon which he is to enter.” And Mr. Pusey’s comparison of the German and English systems is partly applicable to the contrasted defects of the latter and the Scottish: “The Germans have sacrificed

They are ostensibly required to devote four years to it, but in fact the student may receive ordination after the expiration of six sessions, provided he shall have attended to the philosophical classes during the prescribed four years*.

The education is also defective in kind. The practical bias operates on the professional, as well as on the previous course, of the student; and hurries him onward to immediate preparation for his future duties, without advancing to them by the slower but surer steps of accurate as well as comprehensive study. As the popular demand in the Scottish church is for sermons, to the composition of these the students hasten; and they expend too much of that portion of the theological course, which might be better devoted to laying deep the foundation of solid learning†, in writing and criticising each other's sermons.

the preparatory branch of university education; we the professional; they have a complete scheme of theological education for students unprepared to receive it; we have an admirable preparatory education, but no suitable system engrafted upon it."—*Remarks on Cathedral Institutions*.

* The law recognises an irregular attendance, which is, in fact, no attendance whatever: it has been in some degree amended by a recent act of Assembly. The knowledge of the Hebrew language required of the student is very imperfect.—*Commissioners' Report*.

† Mr. Pusey states, that in the Scottish universities, where

To the defective theological education of the Scottish clergy must be attributed, as one among many other causes, their inferior ascendancy as compared with that of the clergy of the church of England, illustrated by the much greater prevalence of dissent in Scotland than in England. As the subject is of much importance, and to single out one cause of so extensive an evil, instead of regarding it in connexion with the whole chain of causes in which it forms a link, would be to assign to it undue weight, I shall at once, though the prosecution of the inquiry may involve me in a digression, take a brief view of the whole question.

The fact of there being a far greater ratio of dissenters to members of the church in Scotland than in England, I assume†. Nor must it be supposed

the principle of division of labour is carried further than among ourselves, (in that there is in each a professor of Ecclesiastical History,) the necessity of a further supply has been much felt; in the absence of any provision for this purpose, the exposition of the New Testament forms no part of the instruction of candidates for the Christian ministry.—*Remarks, &c.*, p. 80.

I was informed in Scotland that no commentary on the whole of the Sacred writings has been produced by any Scottish divine.

† This fact has been disputed; but the recent returns have placed it beyond doubt. The dissenters in England amount to from 1-12th to 1-20th part of the population. (See *Dr. Dealtry's Charge delivered at the Visitation in Hampshire, 1834*, Note F. to p. 16.) Dr. Dealtry has adopted on the statement

that in the remoter parts of the country, from which poverty excludes dissent, the authority of the clergy is paramount. I have already adverted to the lay interference and dictation to which they are fre-

of the *Church of Scotland Magazine*, a work of high authority, the opinion that the dissenters bear an equal proportion to the church in England and in Scotland; but subsequent inquiries have proved that their strength has been underrated. In Scotland they amount to about 1-10th. (See Note I. *Appendix* to Vol. I.) Now if we exclude from consideration the seven northern counties of Scotland, in which they form but 1-80th of the population poverty affording the barrier to the progress of dissent in that part of the kingdom, it follows that in the remaining counties, and especially in towns, the proportion of dissenters to churchmen would be far greater in Scotland than in England. In England, the dissenters are distributed more generally, and in some remote parts, such as Cornwall, where large bodies of well-paid miners are collected together, and in Wales, they abound.

It has been urged in disparagement of any inference from the larger proportion of dissenters to churchmen in Scotland than in England, that infidelity prevails in a greater degree amongst the members of the Established Church in England than in Scotland. That this is the fact I am ready to admit, and attribute it to the deeper innate seriousness and thoughtfulness of the Scottish people, promoted by the system of parochial education. If these valuable qualities characterized the English in an equal degree, or in other words, the Church of England enjoyed the advantages possessed by that of Scotland, in a more general adherence of the people to the faith of their ancestors, its ranks would be swelled by a considerable accession of members, from those of Unitarians, Socinians, and *Political* Dissenters: though, on the other hand, there would be doubtless a secession, but probably in less proportion, from the same quarters, to the better classes of dissenters.

quently subjected in the discharge of their duties. The church, in many of those districts, consists less of a board of well-established ministers, than of a bundle of little oligarchies; and the refractoriness of the people would speedily break out into open revolt, if they could afford to support ministers of their own seeking.

If the authority of the church in their stronghold, among the lower classes, be defective, its tenure on the upper classes is still more imperfect. The Presbyterian gentry transfer their allegiance without scruple to the Episcopalian church, when they repair to England, and usually place their sons under the tuition of ministers of its church. While resident at Edinburgh, many of them, who are scrupulous as to the doctrine of the preacher, are indifferent respecting the church or sect to which he belongs; and go the round of the different places of worship belonging to the Church, the Baptists, Independents, and other sectaries, without any consideration of the title of the preacher to his ministerial vocation.

In Ireland the Presbyterian church has degenerated into Arianism and Socinianism*.

Such are the facts on which the statements to be

* On the other hand, it is very gratifying to contrast with these statements, the disposition of one considerable and respectable sect to unite with the Kirk.—See Note I. *Appendix*, Vol. I.

investigated are founded. And they appear more remarkable, when it is recollected, that the prejudices, no less than the native disposition of the Scottish people are unquestionably favourable to an establishment*, as the persecutions which it endured, enlisted not only the religious but the national feelings of their ancestors, in its defence. Whereas the Church of England has been regarded by a great body of the English sectarians as a persecuting establishment, while her struggles with Popery have been forgotten, or the retrospect of them interrupted by the many intervening conflicts between the church and sectarians.

The Church of England has been also exposed to some dangers from which that of Scotland has been comparatively exempted ;—the earlier growth of manufacturing wealth ; the more extensive and rapid diffusion of controversial opinions ; and above all from political agitation, by which, till lately, Scotland was little affected.

There are certain causes of the increase of dissent, which affect both England and Scotland, viz. the want of adequate church-room, and of ministers,

* Dr. Chalmers observes, that such, after all, is the native preference of the people for an establishment, that nothing but a right and conscientious patronage is required to keep the vast bulk of our families within the pale. (*On Endowments.*) Dr. Chalmers here adverted to but one of many causes of the prevalence of dissent.

and the abuse of patronage. It would be perhaps impossible to ascertain, with any degree of accuracy, which of the two countries suffers more from these evils*.

I shall therefore proceed to the consideration of the causes of dissent peculiar to Scotland. Of these, some are inherent in the constitution of the Scottish Church:—the inadequate provision made for its public services and general superintendence. Under the former of these heads is the want of an established form of prayer. In conse-

* The returns published by the Church Extension Committee of the Church of Scotland, under the head of "Specimens of the Ecclesiastical destitution of Scotland," include church-accommodation of all sorts, whether provided by the church or by dissenters, in all but some few parishes and districts. In those of Edinburgh, in which the distinction is stated, it appears that the ratio of church-sittings provided by the Church of Scotland, to the population, varies from 1 in 14 to 1 in 38, besides two or three closes in which it is far greater; in the parish of Blackfriars, Glasgow, as 1 to 9: in Hawick, 1 in 7.

According to the returns communicated in the second Report of the English Church Commissioners, lately laid before Parliament, it appears that in four parishes of London and its suburbs, there is church-room for not quite 1-20th of the population; in twenty-one, not 1-10th; in nine for not 1-8th. In Lancashire, in thirty-eight parishes, church-room for 1-8th, the proportions varying in the different parishes from 1-6th to 1-30th. In the diocese of York, in twenty parishes or districts, 1-6th to 1-30th. In the diocese of Lichfield and Coventry, sixteen parishes or districts, 1-6th to 1-14th.

quence of this deficiency, the prayers of the church are rendered notoriously dependent on the piety or talent of the individual minister, and are usually moulded into a form, serving as a meagre substitute for a sublime but simple liturgy, condensing the devotion of ages, and comprising supplications and thanksgivings applicable to any possible private or public emergency.

The reading of the Holy Scriptures is much omitted in the northern and western churches, I know not whether generally. The people have thus become habituated to consider preaching as the important, and prayer as the subordinate part of the public service: nay, if we may judge of their sentiments on the subject by their language, we should infer that with them the sermon is the sole object for which they repair to a place of worship: as they call attending church “going to hear sermon,” and persons so employed are usually spoken of as the “preaching folk*.”

The minister, when opposed to the adverse current, or strong wind of opposition, finds himself

* It is unfortunate that the undue exaltation of preaching, by some sectarians, should have induced some members of the Church of England to recommend a mode of avoiding it scarcely less exceptionable,—that of an occasional omission of the sermon, in order that the people may learn to set due value on the liturgy: on this subject we may refer to Hooker. “So worthy a part of Divine Service,” he observes, speaking of the ordinance of preaching, “we should greatly wrong, if

without the sheet-anchor of a form of prayer, the excellence of the matter of which is unimpaired by his individual deficiencies. The episcopalian is disposed to attribute partly to the attitude of standing or want of a sufficiently reverential preparation for prayer, the little importance which is attached to it.

Another defect of the Scottish Church is the want of permanent and adequate superintendence. The form of its government is theoretically efficient, exhibiting the appearance of an unbroken series of judicatories, connected together in well-graduated subordination: the Kirk Session, composed of the clergy of a presbytery,—the Synod, comprising delegates from several presbyteries subject to its authority,—and the General Assembly, invested with an appellate jurisdiction to which the several synods are in their turn amenable: whilst each of these judicatories derives auxiliary strength from the admixture of a certain proportion of laymen with the clergy in their composition. There is something imposing in such a representation of the lay and ecclesiastical membership of the Church of Scotland, and especially august in the supreme court of appeal, and general tribunal, in which it is ultimately embodied. But it must be borne in mind that the meetings of

we did not esteem preaching as the blessed ordinance of God; sermons as keys to the kingdom of heaven, as wings to the soul, as spurs to the good affections of men, unto the sound and healthy as food, as physic unto the diseased minds."

the General Assembly, as well as those of the subordinate courts, are only temporary: the clergy who compose them being, as the constitution of the church, and the inadequacy of its endowments, requires them to be, a *working clergy*, “hewers of wood and drawers of water,” are necessarily, if they attempt to fulfil their duties, so entirely engrossed by local and parochial employments, that they must regard the business of general superintendence to which they may be called, as members of different courts, incidental, transient, and intrusive: and bring to it minds too often absorbed and harassed by local details, and unaccustomed to regard the objects of their jurisdiction with habitual attention and deliberation, or indeed with knowledge or experience in any degree requisite to the task. Far less will they be able to exercise that vigilance and foresight which become the “watchmen” of the church. Hence the dearth of those important documents on the state of the church,—its wants,—and the dangers to which it is exposed, which emanate from time to time, and in different dioceses, from the bishops of the Church of England or their deputies.

In the transaction of ordinary business, and in the controversial skill acquired by the collision with their lay colleagues, many of whom are of the legal profession, such members may not be deficient.

The democratic form of church-government in

Scotland has moreover a tendency to weaken its authority, by inducing a spirit of independence and insubordination*.

Another cause of the inferior authority of the Church of Scotland as compared with that of England, and of the latitudinarian indifference with which dissent is too much regarded in Scotland, is to be found in the non-ecclesiastical character of the universities. Hence no obligation of attendance on the Divine worship of the church is imposed on the students, provided they acknowledge themselves to be dissenters; an immunity tending directly to encourage schism, as well as to impair the feeble and imperfect discipline of the university. This operates more especially at St. Andrew's, as the students of this university who are members of the kirk are compelled to attend the University Church, and prohibited attending any other†.

* To this cause may be probably ascribed, in part the political feeling which has lately pervaded Scotland. Till within few years the people of that country took little interest in political matters, following their own local pursuits. But when they became affected by the agitation which prevailed for some time in other parts of the kingdom previous to the Reform-Bill; and more especially, when political power became placed within their reach,—the principles to which they had been inured, were at once applied to the new object of popular speculation and interest; and they have shown themselves likely to exercise the rule with which they are invested, with a view rather to narrow and party aggrandisement, than to general and national advantage.

† Dr. Chalmers has petitioned the Royal Commissioners against this needless and pernicious regulation. Its rigour is

Few, it is alleged, actually avail themselves of the pretext of dissent, as it would be precluded by the prohibition of their guardians and parents, by self-interest, and by higher motives. But the principle, on which the exemption is founded, and to which the university sets its seal, is unaffected by the greater or less number of those who take advantage of it: a principle pregnant with evil consequences: that of rendering religion, if the student be so disposed to regard it, a matter only between God and his conscience, and by empowering him, on the sole condition of his regular attendance on the lectures on secular branches of knowledge, to hold and propagate, under the very roof of the university itself, sectarian and sceptical tenets:—and of inculcating, more especially on the students, the habit of regarding the church, not as a national establishment, but possessing only a claim on their allegiance, which they may at their option set aside, in favour of that of any sect.

The Church of Scotland has laid on each of its ministers not only the burden of the provision of public worship, but also that of parochial duties, and “the care of all the churches.” Are the indi-

strangely contrasted with the laxity of other Scottish Universities on the subject. It is stated in the Report of the Royal Commissioners, that at Edinburgh and Marischal College, Aberdeen, the members of the *senatus academicus* have ceased to take any measures for ascertaining whether Divine worship be attended or not.

viduals on whom these various and important functions devolve, qualified,—by early habits and associations, by education, by learning, by proper training, and by mutual intercourse, and co-operation,—to discharge them? The answer is involved in a consideration of these several particulars.

The livings in Scotland fall short, on an average, of 200*l.* per annum. Few much exceed that sum, except in the towns, where they may amount to 600*l.* and are usually bestowed on the most meritorious ministers. It follows that there is little inducement to the sons of the gentry to enter the church; and that few in fact do: the ranks of the church are filled, if not by the sons of clergymen, by those of farmers, or persons of no higher education. Some of them have followed the plough: and, in general, they are not placed, except by their professional station, on a level with the gentry. And many of them have no opportunity of acquiring manners and habits enabling them to mix with the upper classes of their congregations, on such terms of respectful familiarity as would ensure to them that influence which, blending with the authority of their office, extends and strengthens it. Hence the ministers in Scotland are not regarded, in general, with the same consideration which they enjoy in England: and hence, in part, the unquestionably superior influence of the Church of

England, as compared with that of Scotland, over the upper classes.

Nor must it be supposed that the clergy are better fitted to discharge their pastoral duties among the lower classes, by the circumstance of their being selected from among them. Their more intimate acquaintance with the feelings and habits of their ancient associates, will prove far less valuable than that inbred ascendancy of mind and manners,—that more general knowledge of human nature, and that tact in adapting it to the exigencies of his flock, with which a pious, well-educated minister, taken from the upper classes, is endowed: qualifications disparaged only by those who do not possess them, but rendered by the great Head of the church eminently conducive to the promotion of His spiritual sway. The usefulness of the minister from the lower classes will be obstructed by petty jealousies and feelings, from which the minister belonging to a higher grade of society is exempted. He is also apt to bring with him into the ministry the low vices as well as low habits of early life, especially that of drinking*, and even of participation in the guilt of illicit distillation. In one island, more than one minister was detected in this practice.

* The General Assembly has lately appointed a Commission to examine into the irregularities of the ministers in the north of Scotland. (1836.)

And here we are brought to the important question of the influence of the education received by the clergy in qualifying them for their various and arduous duties, and in counteracting the tendency of early habits and associations. The first of these points we have already considered: in reference to the latter, it is sufficient to observe, that the student is apt to select at the University companions of his own class, and consequently retains, to a considerable extent, his former feelings and manners.

The student, after completing his course of academical studies, though admissible to orders at twenty-one years of age, seldom enters on the holy office till twenty-three. He devotes the intervening two years usually to employment which may furnish him with the means of subsistence, by becoming a tutor in a family; and often in London and its neighbourhood. He then at once assumes his station in the church: sometimes he is appointed assistant to his father, or to some minister who is incapable of the discharge of his duties, but usually is nominated to the entire charge of a parish.

He is now rendered incapable in a great measure, by the constant pressure of business, from repairing the deficiencies of his education: he is perhaps ill furnished with books; too far distant from his brethren to derive much assistance from their stock; and with regard to the large public libraries in the Universities, they are available only to pro-

fessors and the students, being wholly out of the reach of the parochial ministers. If he have no leisure or means to add to his own imperfect stock of knowledge, far less is he competent to contribute to that of others: his voice is not heard beyond the limits of his own cure; and of his labours and eloquence he bequeaths no record to posterity, save that which is engraven in the hearts of his own parishioners. From the Church of England the ministers of the Scottish Church must therefore seek that learning which they need, and cannot find in the writings of their first reformers and sufferers during the episcopalian troubles: and gratefully do they point to the long array of the works of our divines, arranged on their shelves, when they have enjoyed the means and opportunities of procuring them*. The value

* Dr. Chalmers has stated that greatly more than half the distinguished authorship of Scotland is professional. To the works which he had in view in making this declaration must be added his own masterly Treatise on Endowments, composed in the "lettered retreat" of St. Andrew's, an University which he regards with filial affection and veneration; whose fostering care nurtured his maturing strength for the arduous labours of his valuable life, and now afforded him, while discharging the regular and peaceful duties of the academician, the needful relaxation previous to his entering upon the elevated and important sphere to which he had been recently called by the voice of his church and the acclamations of his countrymen. It is passing strange that Mr. Bulwer should have addressed Dr. Chalmers as a *Dissenter*, in a chapter in his work on *England and the English*, dedicated to that eminent

of the *leisure** distributed among the ministers of the Church of England, must be estimated in reference to the extent, not only of its own territory, but to that of Scotland; and it may be also added that of America, to the spiritual culture of which it has much contributed.

Nor may the Scottish minister enjoy the advantage of being placed, as in England, under the direction of an elder minister, unless the latter be disqualified for active duties, in order that he may gradually assume the important responsibility attached to his charge. He is at once, on attaining the age of twenty-three years, and sometimes earlier, invested with the entire and undivided pastoral duties. Nor can he expect much assistance or advice from other ministers, as being necessarily confined to the duties of their respective parishes, the Scottish ministers can enjoy little mutual intercourse: even at Edinburgh the clergy rarely meet, sometimes not more frequently than once in the year.

individual. "It is a singular circumstance," observes Mr. Bulwer, vol. i., p. 338, "that the two ablest defenders of an ecclesiastical establishment have been a Dissenter and a Deist; the first yourself,—the second David Hume!" The Church of Scotland cannot afford to surrender her champion to the enemy.

* Mr. Pusey has vindicated the *leisure* of the Church of England by a most triumphant enumeration of the authors whose works may be attributed to the opportunity of study and research which it afforded them.

If, in endeavouring to account for the greater prevalence of dissent in Scotland than in England, I may seem to have cast undue reflections on the qualifications or conduct of the clergy of the Scottish Church, it must be remembered that I attribute their defects to the disadvantageous system under which they are placed.

That they are not blameless, and indeed partly infected with the national vices, is notorious: that their conduct and demeanour in general are exemplary, is equally undeniable. And my acquaintance with a considerable number of them, in the remote as well as in the more frequented parts of the country, enables me to unite my testimony with that of all those who have, like myself, partaken of their well-bred hospitality,—have enjoyed their intelligent conversation, and witnessed the fervour of their domestic devotions, and their piety, zeal, and energy in the discharge of their parochial duties, under circumstances of toil, and often of hardship and peril, to the effect of the doctrines which they at once practise and inculcate, in enabling many of them to surmount the manifold disadvantages under which they labour, and in displaying the graces as well as the gifts of the Gospel. As preachers, especially in the principal towns to which their merit has brought them, some of them are conspicuous, no less for the soundness of their doctrine, than for their energetic eloquence.

nor can I withhold from the Church of Scotland my concurrence in the acknowledgement of national obligations, in having furnished a champion not only of her own establishment, or of that of England, but of the principle on which all church establishments are based;—one who, bursting from all the trammels of local prejudice, even while encumbered by the weight of aggravated labour and accumulated responsibility, could survey with comprehensive view not only the field assigned to his especial care, but the whole territory of the Church of Christ, wresting from her enemies the principles of physical, moral, and political science, and employing them in her defence; and enlisting by the commanding wisdom and persuasive eloquence of his exhortations, and of his example, a goodly band of lay auxiliaries in her service.

The Scottish clergy are exempt from some defects and vices peculiar to those of the Church of England; defects, arising and partly counteracting the advantages derived from the superiority of the latter over their flocks in point of birth and habits, and from their means of indulging in expensive, and dissipating amusements. The *fox-hunting parson* is a character known only from description by the untravelled Scotchman.

It is not intended to draw a comparison in point of conduct between the clergy of the two churches: but the superior wisdom of the Church of England in providing more effectually in its constitution

against the effect of individual deficiencies and misconduct, has been proved by the comparatively less advantage which, in her case, these have afforded to the enemies, than in that of the sister church.

The Church of Scotland sustained, in the overthrow of her ecclesiastical edifices at the Reformation, an irreparable injury, which that of England has comparatively escaped. Mankind, except during the transient frenzy of political or fanatical agitation, spontaneously and habitually hallow the monuments of the piety of former ages, preserved to them by the guardianship of their ancestors, and endeared to them by the earliest and holiest recollections and associations: and the Church which preserves and protects them, reaps in her full participation of the affection and reverence bestowed on them, the reward of her pious care. The Church of Scotland, from want of power, or of discretion, or the means of subsequently maintaining those fabrics, from which she had expelled a superstitious hierarchy, and to the possession of which she succeeded, not so much by right of conquest, as by her superior claim to the dignity and privileges of a national establishment, renounced a lawful and acknowledged title to the allegiance of her sons: and the majestic ruins*

* It is unfortunate that the pious, learned, and enlightened author of the *Life of John Knox*, should have deemed it necessary to imitate the most reprehensible part of the character of that eminent reformer, by writing *merrily* on subjects

among which she has pitched her lowly tabernacle, inculcate, in defiance of all her exhortations to order and submission, fearful lessons of innovation and destruction.

which ought only to excite sorrow and indignation. Mr. Macrie has thus expressed himself on the effects of the work of devastation to which I allude:—"In any apology which I make for the reformers, I would alleviate, instead of aggravating, the distress which is felt for the loss of such valuable memorials of antiquity. It has been observed by high authority, that there are certain commodities which derive their principal value from their extreme rarity, and which, if found in great quantities, would cease to be sought after or prized. A nobleman, of great literary reputation, has indeed questioned the justness of this observation, as far as respects precious stones and metals. But I flatter myself, that the noble author and the learned critic, however much they differ as to public wealth, will agree that the observation is perfectly just, as applied to those commodities which constitute the wealth and engage the researches of the antiquary. With him *rarity* is always an essential requisite and primary recommendation. His property, like that of the possessor of the famous Sibylline books, does not decrease in value by the reduction of its quantity, but after the greater part has been destroyed, becomes still more precious. If the matter be viewed in this light, antiquarians have no reason to complain of the ravages of the reformers, who have left them such valuable remains, and placed them in that very state which awakens in their minds the most lively sentiments of the sublime and beautiful, by reducing them to *Ruins*."—*Macrie* i. 273.

Mr. Macrie, notwithstanding this burst of Vandalism, admits the guilt of the sacrilege committed at the Reformation, and endeavours with much success to vindicate Knox from the charge of having aided and abetted the perpetrators.

The gentry in the neighbourhood of St. Andrew's are chiefly East Indians, and the Episcopalian chapel is well attended by them. Dr. Chalmers has formed a Missionary Society in St. Andrew's, and Dr. Haldane, the principal of St. Mary's College, presides over a Bible Society.

The lower classes are partly occupied by fishing; the small pier protects their boats. The bay is

And in justice to the ministers of the Church of Scotland, to which church Mr. Macrie did not belong, I cannot deny myself the gratification of testifying to the ardent and enthusiastic admiration, which I have heard them express, of the magnificent cathedrals, and venerable universities of Episcopalian England: and to their heartfelt satisfaction on reflecting that the destroying edicts and lawless violence which overthrew the ecclesiastical edifices of their own less favoured land, were powerless beyond the Tweed.

I was unable to procure, till these pages had been committed to the press, a copy of Dr. Chalmers's *Letter to the Royal Commissioners*, published in 1832, vindicating himself from some misrepresentations in their report. In reference to his memorial, objecting to the regulation adopted at St. Andrew's, limiting the attendance of students belonging to the Kirk to the University Church, he observes that it was very recent, and that he had recommended its being relaxed *only* upon application from the *parents* of the students. The result of it, combined with an ill-judged appointment to the pulpit of the University Church, he states to have been the reduction of the students, during the seven years in which it had been in operation, to half its former amount. Dr. Chalmers traces the indulgence to Dissenters, which was at variance with the original law of the college, to the period of the growth of dissent about the middle of last century, and then describes its effects:—"The liberality of our college

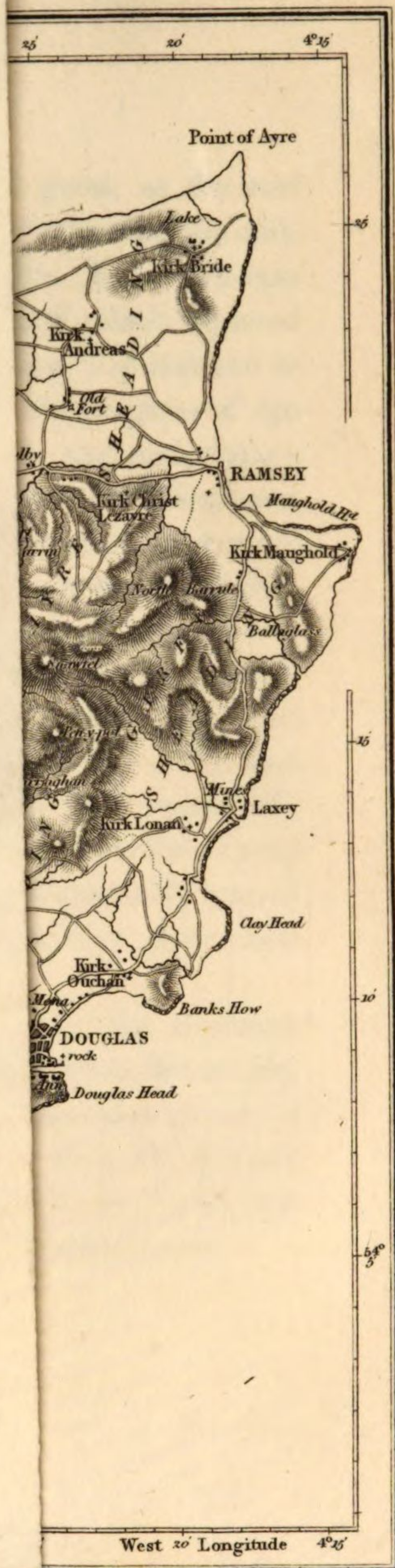
proverbially dangerous to shipping. Vessels driven into it by an east wind, being unable to weather the opposite points of Red-head and Fife-ness, either run into the mouth of the Tay, risking the navigation which is extremely obstructed by sand-banks, or are inevitably wrecked. A calamity of this sort, a few years ago, gave occasion to a remarkable display of heroism. A vessel was stranded during a storm on the long sandy beach off the town, and lay at a quarter of a mile from the shore. A young student of divinity, named Honey, a man of great physical strength, determined on swimming out with a rope in the hope of saving the crew. And he succeeded in bringing them off one by one by a repetition of his desperate attempts. He received some public marks of honour, and a portrait of him is exhibited in the library.

The Bell-rock light-house is distant about twelve miles from St. Andrew's, and is visible by day. The destruction of shipping and loss of life which

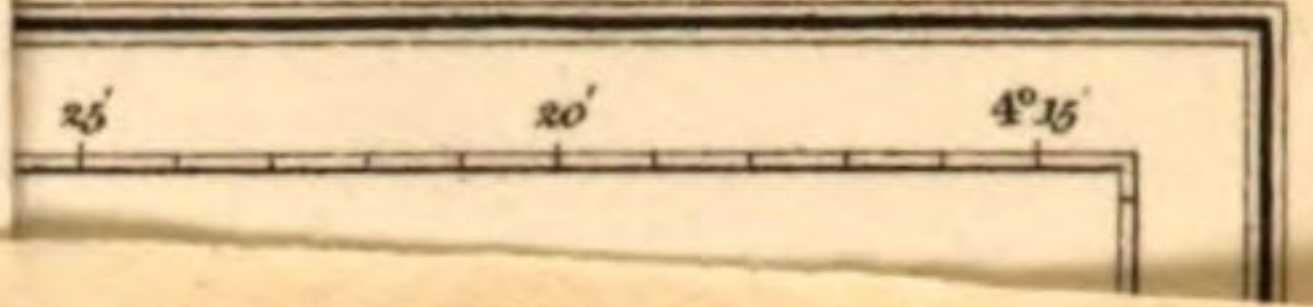
system has not certainly endangered,—we think it has contributed to strengthen and secure,—the stability of our church. On this subject we might make a confident appeal to the ecclesiastical state of the two nations (England and Scotland), and ask in which of them it is that the church establishment is more firmly seated in the affections of the public, or has less to fear from the activities and the mischievous designs of a restless sectarianism." I cannot record, without regret, an opinion of such high authority, completely opposed to my own conclusion on a subject of so much importance.—1836,

has been prevented by it is very great, as the reef of rocks on which it is erected, obstructing the mid-channel, was concealed at high-tide. I am not aware whether the following circumstance, which occurred while this light-house was building, is mentioned in the large volume which records the progress of the works. The men employed in the undertaking were landsmen, under the direction of Lieutenant Stephenson, R.N., and they continued their work only at low water. Once, through some unfortunate negligence, their boat drifted off unperceived from the solitary rock, on which the tide was rapidly advancing, whilst the shades of evening were fast closing in; and no vessel was in sight. The men instantly resigned themselves to their apparently approaching fate without emotion. But Providence did not forsake them; a boat unexpectedly passed about night-fall, and rescued the crew from their desperate situation.

Fifeshire has greatly profited by the introduction of steam-vessels. The road from this county to Edinburgh previously made the long circuit of the Queen's Ferry; a passage often interrupted, and sometimes dangerous. Fifteen years ago Fifeshire was traversed but by a single coach!



Drawn & Engraved by J. & C. Walker
17th 1836.



Point of View



CHAPTER XIX.

ISLE OF MAN, GENERAL DESCRIPTION, INTERIOR, COASTS, DOUGLAS, ST. MAUGHOLD'S HEAD, RAMSAY BAY, PEEL, SODOR, SPANISH HEAD, CALF ISLAND, DERBY HAVEN, CASTLETOWN, CLIMATE, PRODUCE, TENURES, FARMERS, NAVAL SERVICE, MANUFACTURES, FISHERIES, POOR, COTTAGES, FOOD, DRESS.

IN the autumn of 1829, I revisited Scotland, and spent some weeks, *en route*, in the Isle of Man. My inquiries respecting this interesting island were facilitated by the introduction to its principal inhabitants, and the result of them is embodied in the following general summary.

The island is about thirty miles in length, and eleven in breadth at its widest point, containing upwards of 130,000 acres. A range of mountains, terminating to northward in a broad rampart somewhat distant from the sea, traverses it from south-west to north-east, round and heavy in form, excepting North Barrule, at the north-east extremity. Snaefell, the highest, rises 2000 feet above the sea; commanding a magnificent panoramic view of the coasts of England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, extending to Solway Firth, Ailsa Crag, the Mull of Galloway, and the noble mountains of Morne.

The interior of the island is boggy, but the hills are on all sides perforated by glens, which are partially adorned by wood, chiefly beech and alder, sometimes rising into timber, and watered by torrents forming in several places picturesque waterfalls. The villages, churches, and farmhouses, being usually surrounded by groves of trees, relieve the generally monotonous aspect of the surface of the island.

The northern part of the island is flat, but richly cultivated.

Grandeur is confined to the coast: and the rude magnificence of its lofty precipices contrasts strikingly with the softer scenery of expanding harbours, shelving shores, towns, and villages.

Douglas is the principal town, though Castle-town derives, from the circumstance of its being the seat of local government, a sort of metropolitan importance. It is situated in the corner of a bay, enclosed by two bold promontories, presenting seaward only the backs and ends of miserable dwellings; but the shores sloping upwards to the mountain-range, are studded with the residences of the principal inhabitants, amongst which Mona Castle stands pre-eminent, on the beach beneath a cliff covered with flourishing plantations. It was built about thirty years ago by the Duke of Athol, at an expense of 60,000*l.*, and is at present occupied

by the duke's son-in-law, Lord Strathallan*. The receding tide discovers extensive sands, and several banks and rocks, which render the navigation dangerous, and the occasion of many wrecks. But notwithstanding these disadvantages, the bay affords the best anchorage and securest refuge in St. George's Channel during westerly winds. In easterly, small vessels only can take shelter within the pier, whilst ships must run for Belfast Lough or southward. A pier, which cost government 25,000*l.* with a light-house upon it, defends the entrance of the harbour, and forms a promenade for the town's-people. The depth of the water in the harbour in spring-tides is twenty-one feet, and at neap, thirteen feet. The erection of another pier, which might render the bay secure during any wind, has been proposed to government†. A

* It has been since sold and converted into a hotel, and has subsequently become the house of the United Service Club, at Douglas.

† The public attention was first drawn to the important subject of constructing a great central harbour for the Irish Sea, at Douglas, by Sir William Hillary: and some years afterwards, Sir John Rennie, by direction of the Commissioners for making, maintaining, and improving the harbours in the Isle of Man, surveyed the proposed site, and drew up a Report, approving the project, and suggesting a plan of carrying it into effect.

I am happy in the opportunity of giving additional publicity to a project, interesting not only in a commercial point of

tower over Douglas-head serves for a land-mark ; but a light-house in its stead would much diminish the perils of this coast.

The streets, or rather lanes, of the town, with the exception of one lately built, are narrow and intricate, and without a pavement for pedestrians: the houses are respectable, and the shops are spacious and showy, and worthy of any English country-town. Lodging-houses, machines, and baths, are provided for those who are disposed to avail themselves of the cheapness of living, and excellent sea-bathing on the coast, as the water is singularly clear, being free from mud, sea-weed, or shells. The rate of house-rent is, however, high, compared with the price of all other articles. Large establishments for the herring-fishery are erected on the harbour side.

A small river winding among sloping hills, laid view but to humanity, and cannot represent its claims to public attention more forcibly than in the words of the Report. —See *Appendix*, Note 2.

Sir J. Rennie proposes to effect his object by constructing two breakwaters, one of 340 feet, and another of 1400 feet long, and to run out a small pier of 400 feet long. He calculates that it would afford accomodation to from 150 to 200 vessels of all sizes; and that the cost of it would amount to upwards of 200,000*l*.

Sir W. Hillary, in a recent publication on the same subject, suggests that the expense might be defrayed out of the surplus revenues of the Isle of Man, amounting to 15,000*l*., paid annually into the Exchequer of England.

out in meadows or adorned with plantations, flows into the harbour under an old bridge, between richly-wooded banks. At some distance from the town, it passes a wooded knoll, concealing from view the park and newly-built residence of General Goldie, who by his marriage with a Manks heiress became the wealthiest proprietor in the island, and now fills the office of speaker of the House of Keys. It is called the Nunnery, from its vicinity to an ancient establishment of that description, the ivy-mantled ruins of which are used as a stable. It was founded by St. Bridget, who received the veil from St. Maughold, a saint of high reputation in the island.

The residence of Colonel Wilks, of oriental fame, who married a sister of General Goldie, adjoins it. And the singularly sequestered and prettily situated church of Kirk Braddan, the incumbent of which is Mr. Howard, author of a well-known volume of Sermons, is in the same neighbourhood. This is the parish-church of Douglas. The value of the living is 70*l.* per. annum. The town has two chapels of ease, one of which is large; but they are very insufficient for the population*.

The coast north of Douglas is precipitous, but in some places green to the water's edge, and rises

* The population of Douglas is now about 8000 (1836).

into the bold promontory of St. Maughold's-head. Kirk Maughold stands in a hollow, within the midst of an extensive cemetery, a dreary and romantic spot. The parish and head-land derive their appellation from one of the earliest events of Manks history on record, which occurred A.D. 500; the landing of St. Maughold on this coast, cast ashore in a leathern boat, his feet and hands in manacles. He was afterwards elected bishop of the Island. This headland and the point of Ayre enclose Ramsay Bay. The town, situated on the estuary of the Sulby river, has a small harbour, admitting vessels of 100 tons, a quay, pier, and light-house. The streets are narrow, but the houses are respectable, and appear neat and cleanly from the prevalence of whitewash, a customary precaution against typhus fever, which prevails here as in other towns of the island. The mania for whitewashing, so disparaging to antiquity, has absolutely raged in this neighbourhood, and some of the churches are, as in South Wales, daubed to the roof. One old disused church, on a knoll at the foot of the mountain-range, embosomed in trees of dark foliage, and now accessible only to the climber, might pass under its new dress for the spectre of one of those ancient remnants of rustic piety, which are now fast crumbling to decay, and giving place to others of more substantial construction and larger dimensions.

The western coast from Furby Point to the bold promontory of Peel Head, consists of an uniform sandy cliff of little elevation. The small town of Peel lies in a bay formed by a bold promontory connected with the shore by a pier, and encircled by the walls and covered with the ruins of the castle, and of the cathedral of St. Germain, and of the church of St. Patrick, reputedly much more ancient than Castle Rushen. The vestiges of these edifices are extensive and picturesque. Their decay is owing to the unfortunate use, in their construction, of the soft crumbling sandstone of the adjacent coast, when the finest possible material might have been procured, though with some trouble and expense, from the eastern coast, the limestone in the neighbourhood of Castletown, of which Castle Rushen is built. The guard-room is pointed out as the scene of the legend of the Black Dog, "the Spectre-hound of Man," which destroyed a drunken soldier who boasted that he would fight it single-handed.

The cathedral, built A.D. 1245, was named after Germain the First, bishop of the Island and of the three kingdoms*, is a small church; the ground within its walls is now used as a burial-place for Roman Catholics, of whom there are few in the

* Port Elliott, seat of the Earl St. Germain, in Cornwall, is erected on the site of a church dedicated to the same saint.

Island, and for drowned persons, wrecks having been frequent on the coast between Peel and Calf Island previous to the erection of the light-house on the latter. Beneath the choir of the cathedral is a low, damp, dungeon, formerly used as the ecclesiastical prison. The grave of an enormous giant is shown beneath the outer wall of the castle; it was lately opened by two young sportsmen from Manchester, who discovered no bones or other vestiges.

The insulated rock, on which these ruins stand, is called Sodor, and as it was the site of the cathedral, was sufficiently important, in an ecclesiastical point of view, to give an additional title to the bishop of Man. As a spot "from which savage clans and roving barbarians derived the light of knowledge," it merits being ranked with Iona; for hither Scottish kings were sent for education by their laws, and Man was, as Hector Boëthius informs us, "the fountain of all honest learning and erudition." I am inclined to adopt the above conjecture respecting the long disputed question of the origin of the title of the Bishop of Sodor and Man, as more simple and obvious than the plausible derivation of the word Sodor, from Sudureys, or Southern Isles, *i. e.* Southern Hebrides, with which the Isle of Man was associated in the civil and ecclesiastical subdivision of those islands by the Danes. All the early writers, Camden, Buchanan, &c., suppose

Sodor the seat of the bishopric. Part of the castle was inhabited within half-a-century; it is now solely tenanted by an old bombardier, who acts as cicerone, and bolts out his legends like shot from a twelve-pounder. The rock of Sodor is commanded by a steep ridge rising abruptly from the town of Peel, and terminated by lofty and deeply caverned precipices. The harbour has a lighthouse; the entrance to it is narrow, admitting small vessels, and affording a safe receptacle to the herring-fleets.

A small river flows into the sea at Peel, once second only to the Laxey in the celebrity of its salmon. From this port a considerable quantity was formerly exported to Italy. It is not impossible that salmon-peel, which differs little from salmon, may have derived its designation from this trade, on the supposition of salmon-peel being synonymous with peel-salmon, though, in hazarding this definition, I must not forget the old story of the horse-chestnut and chestnut-horse. The conjecture is supported by the Manks salmon corresponding in size with that of the salmon-peel.

The principal object southward of Peel is Brada Head, a stupendous pile of black rocks, second only to those of Spanish Head in grandeur. There is a copper-mine at the entrance of Port Erin or Iron, at the edge of the sea. The cliffs are per-

forated in several places by the operations of the miners, and much discoloured by the mineral.

There are lead-mines here and at Laxey; some silver is found in the latter. The quarries of Poolvash, in this neighbourhood are celebrated for having furnished the fine black-marble, of which the steps of St. Paul's Cathedral are composed, presented by Bishop Wilson.

The Isle of Man is separated from Calf Island by a narrow sound, through which the tide runs from east to west with great rapidity, forming the Race of the Calf. The navigation of this channel is rendered dangerous by several rocks. This island produces some grain and good pasture, and has a farm-house and some cottages upon it.

Its north-west coast is girt by a broad belt of rent and dislocated rocks tumbled together in indescribable confusion, and by innumerable apertures of great depth, through which the sea, when agitated by the violent gales from the opposite quarter, rushes with tremendous impetuosity. Though not exceeding 200 feet in height, it can scarcely be matched, in point of rude magnificence, in any part of the British coasts. At some distance from the south-west point of the island, the reef of rocks called the Chickens, which is covered at high-water, presents a very dangerous obstacle to vessels, as the current of the ebb from the Sound sets full upon it and might wreck a vessel becalmed

and borne along by the stream. The north-west coast rises into steep, majestic cliffs, 400 feet in height, on the head of which the light-houses are erected, and most advantageously, as the whole coast of Man, from Furby Bay to the Calf is, with the exception of Peel Bay, very dangerous. Opposite to these is the Stack, a conical rock, separated from the coast by a narrow channel and now intercepting the ebb which flowed on both sides of it, with such force, in a direct course to the Chickens, that our boat though well-manned, could scarcely stem it.

The south-east corner of Man is formed by Spanish Head: a headland consisting of two promontories united together by a range of perpendicular cliffs, averaging 300 feet in height, enclosing a bay, and exhibiting in the broken outline of its stupendous precipices, fragments detached from the coast, shooting up into pinnacles, and deep chasms penetrating far inland the ravages of the devouring element. The grandeur of its scenery is enhanced by the black hue of the rocks. The western side of the southern headland overlooks Calf-Sound, and consists of lairs of rocks, much resembling piles and beams of timber laid together, arranged horizontally in the form of shelves, and covered with splintered fragments, detached from the mass, by the joint operation of wind and rain.

The southern coast of Man yields much seaweed, which supplies the Island with good manure. It may be seen waving to and fro at great depth, so extraordinary is the clearness of the water, a perfect submarine forest.

The greater part of the eastern coast exhibits a continued line of lofty precipices. The principal bay south of Douglas is Derby Haven, a fine harbour, half a mile in diameter, affording deep water, and capital anchorage; the principal resort of the herring-vessels on this coast. A small lighthouse is placed at its entrance. General Goldie, the chief proprietor of the coast, has tendered to government a project for forming a wet dock here, at the expense of 100,000*l.*, and the advocates of this plan maintain that Derby-Haven would be preferable as the site of a central asylum harbour, to Douglas, inasmuch as it is more free from rocks and sandbanks.

The danger of this coast to human life has been much diminished by the zeal and exertions of Sir William Hillary, who resides at Douglas and has introduced the use of the life-boat. This spirited individual has himself repeatedly incurred the utmost risk in rescuing the crews of wrecked vessels. He never allows the men employed in this service to wear cork jackets, or to be lashed to the boat, deeming such precautions calculated to diminish their intrepidity: nor does he himself, though

unable to swim, make use of them. Sir William Hillary has received several medals from the Humane Society, in recognition of his distinguished services in the cause of humanity*.

The seat of government is Castletown, neatly built of limestone from the adjacent coast on the shore of a land washed by a dangerous bay. The lieutenant-governor resides in Castle Rushen. This ancient building was erected A. D. 720, by Guttred, son of Orrys; and the material employed in its construction is so durable, that no trace of injury from time, or the action of weather, can be discovered in any part of it, not excepting the quarter exposed to the south-west wind, and its accompanying rains, of the effects of which many of our cathedrals afford melancholy proofs. The castle consists of a keep, flanked by square towers, used as a prison, enclosed by a substantial wall, and the apartments of the lieutenant-governor, added to the building in the time of Queen Elizabeth, which are small, but protected by walls, sixteen feet thick, from both the heat of summer and the cold of winter. A detachment of soldiers, the only one in the Island, is stationed here to mount guard at the castle, and to assist the civil force in case of riot or tumult.

* While since attempting, and successfully, to save a crew wrecked in Douglas Harbour, Sir William was washed off the boat, and his life was, almost miraculously, spared.

On the shore near the castle is a mound, on which are standing ruins of an ancient building, once used as a place of execution. It is the spot on which the unfortunate commandant of Castle Rushen, William Christian, suffered death by order of Lord Derby, for surrendering that fortress to the rebels, during the civil wars. The execution was regarded by the Manksmen as a murder, and the remembrance of it is still perpetuated by the plaintive national song of "The Fair-haired William."

The Manksmen are somewhat offended by the manner in which Sir W. Scott has spoken of Christian, in his novel of *Peveril of the Peak*; but without reason, for his character is represented as blameless, except in regard to the single act of rebellion, of which the House of Derby could entertain but one opinion.

The climate of the Island is pure and mild, but moist. Myrtles, arbutus, Portugal laurel, and several plants requiring warm temperature, thrive in it: and it is no small proof of its being favourable to the production of fruit, that an apple-tree in an orchard near Castletown, yielded 16,000 apples in a single year.

The snow is sometimes heavy, and destructive to the sheep. The shepherds discern the animal when buried, by a hollow spot in the snow, formed by the ascending breath, a practice, I believe, usual in mountainous countries.

The Duke of Athol and others have planted larch, but those trees have been much blasted by the sea-gales, as soon as they reach a certain height. The previous trenching of the ground is found absolutely necessary to the growth of the trees. It is said that the high winds prevent the growth of firs. Feltham makes a remark certainly inapplicable to the then existing state of the Island, that "the Scotch fir will endure almost any severity of climate." That the fir did formerly grow in the Island has been ascertained by the discoveries made, in the bogs, of the roots of this tree (the only species of bog-timber which the island affords), at a depth of eighteen or twenty feet, still growing upright, firm and entire, but the bodies broken off, with their heads all lying to the north-east. Sacherel, who mentions this fact, does not describe the size of the timber. The position in which they were found proves that they were overthrown by the prevailing wind of the Island. At a period when, in consequence of the little provision hitherto made for future navies, the attention of government has been directed to the royal forests, the advantage of planting the waste lands of the Island, which have been purchased of the Duke of Athol by the government, with oak, which grows well on the western coast of Scotland, and also thrives when it has been planted in this island, might deserve consideration. There is a beautiful glen

leading from Douglas to the interior of the Island, called Glen Darrah, or the Glen of Oaks, which may be considered conclusive as to the former growth of oaks in the Island.

Of the entire surface of the Island, about two-thirds are cultivated, and the rest is waste, affording pasture for sheep. The northern district, the soil of which is clay under sand, is the most productive, and furnishes the largest quantity of grain for exportation; but the southern is best supplied with lime and sea-weed from the adjacent coast. The soil and climate are found best adapted to oats and barley*.

The cultivation of potatoes has latterly much increased, though the sea-wrack is ill suited to this plant. It has proportionably superseded the oat and barley, as the food of the people. Wheat, formerly unknown in the Island, may be now seen on very exposed spots. The growth and the manufacture of flax are very general, almost every farmer and cottager raising a little for the use of his family and for exportation. The waste or mountain lands, are enclosed, and belong to the lord of the island, but the proprietors of quarter-lands have the right of pasture.

* There are two kinds of it, the four-rowed, which is only fit for malt, and the two-rowed, which is used for bread, was the general food of the lower classes, with whom oats also were a considerable part of diet.—Feltham's *Tour*, 1798. (The best account of the Isle of Man hitherto published.)

The exports, in 1823, were of wheat 7,549 quarters; barley 254; oats 1,256:—6000 quarters of wheat may be considered the average.

The produce of the island in most years was, during the latter part of last century, inadequate to the consumption, and in 1740, a scarcity was occasioned by drought, which was severely felt, in consequence of the importation of English corn being prohibited*. Feltham remarks, in 1798, that a material improvement had taken place in the agriculture of the Island, during the previous twenty years; although a society formed for the encouragement of farming improvements was dissolved. The various obstacles to agricultural improvements in the island will be hereafter considered.

Enclosures, which, in other countries, are optional with the proprietors of land, are prescribed by the Manks law: or in lieu of boundaries, fences, ditches, or hedges, keepers must be stationed to prevent the cattle straying. It is consequently a frequent practice here, as in Ireland, to tie the legs of the cattle with straw ropes. The practice is called lanketting.

The cattle of the Island are short-horned and run to fat, yielding no milk till they are six years old;

* The importation of foreign corn into the Island, when the English ports are shut, was prohibited by an Act of last year; and excited no sensation among the natives, as they now raise more grain than they can consume.—1836.

but Mr. Gawne, a landed proprietor who has bestowed much attention on the breed, has crossed them successfully with cattle imported. He has introduced the Leicestershire sheep: the native sheep are of the usual mountain kind,—small, sweet-flavoured, and coarse-wooled.

The Island yields a race of very hardy poneys, capable of much labour, with little food. They are exported: for draught and other purposes, horses are imported as well as bred in the Island, but these are of an inferior kind. The tops of the gorse, ground in a mill, serve as a good fodder for horses. I passed a mill near Inchebreck, used for this purpose. That the Manks legislators were not indifferent to the breed of horses, appears from the statute which prescribes that “at court of common law, the jury shall present, among other offenders, all persons that keep stoned horses not worth 6s. 8d., or scabbed horses or mares!”

Partridges and hares abound in parts of the Island: the sale is legal, and the former are sold for 1s. 6d. the brace, and the latter for 4s. 6d. and 5s.—in the market; snipes and woodcocks are numerous. The privilege of shooting requires a license and the permission of the proprietor of the land, which is seldom or ever withheld. The existence of game proves that the right has not been wholly abused. Formerly, falconry appears to have been practised in Man, as the destruction of falcons or herons was prohibited by law. The

falcons of Man were celebrated and exported, probably trained in the island. They still exist. Foxes and pole-cats, their most voracious enemies, are unknown in the Island: and to the negative catalogue of vermin must be added snakes and moles. It is said that no poisonous animal is found in Man, an exemption which it owes, like the neighbouring island, to its patron saint and supposed creator, St. Patrick. Weasels are, however, numerous, and rats have become a pest to the Island: they have almost exterminated the puffins, on Calf Island, by their depredations on the nests of those birds. This account does not exactly agree with that of Bishop Wilson, who observes that the Island contains "several noxious animals, such as badgers, foxes, otters, filmarts, moles, hedge-hogs, snakes, toads, &c., of which the inhabitants know no more than their names; as also several birds, among which magpies, lately introduced by a gentleman more fanciful than prudent or kind, and frogs, a few years ago, which increase very fast*." Red-deer formerly ranged in the mountains: and the bones of elks, and other species of deer are found in different parts of the Island, and chiefly in the pits of shell marl, near Ballagh. This quarry yielded the most perfect specimen ever seen, which is now preserved in the Museum of Edinburgh.

The Manks tenures deserve particular atten-

* Bishop Wilson's *History of the Isle of Man*.

tion. Each parish is divided into Treens, each of which comprises four quarterlands; varying from 60 to 150 acres, varying according to their value, which is from 10*l.* to 125*l.* per annum*. “These are considered property of the highest nature, are (though subject to the payment of a small rent to the Lord of the Island, the total of which amounts to 1500*l.*, contributed by 759, the whole number) absolute estates of inheritance descendible from ancestor to heir, cannot be disposed of by will, nor are liable to payment of debts†.” The holder of property of this kind is called here, as in Westmorland, a *statesman*, as the property itself is an *estate*. The basis on which the security rests is the Act of Settlement, procured by the concurrent efforts of the Manks legislature and of Bishop Wilson, which terminated the struggles with the House of Derby.

“Other lands are called *intacks*,” (tack signifying a lease, as in Scotland, whence leaseholders are called tacksmen,) “and cottages, which were formerly considered of a nature far inferior. *Purchased* lands, though quarterlands, are on an exact footing with intacks and cottages‡.” They are devisable and liable for debt. The legal mode of disposing of property is by sale or mortgage: “the mortgage must be recorded within six months; all mortgagees are empowered, at the expiration of five

* Feltham

† *Ibid.*‡ *Ibid.*

years from the date of their mortgage, to take possession of the lands granted in mortgage, and retain the same until the mortgage is paid off, setting the lands yearly by public auction, and crediting the mortgagee with the rest. Notwithstanding which, the mortgagor has a right, at any time, to pay off the mortgage within twenty-one years*.”

All transfers of property must be recorded, as in copyholds in England: and thus “the title of every acre of land in the Island may be traced. Nothing can be more clearly defined than the modern Manks tenures, which are totally unshackled with, and unrestrained by fictitious suits or records, similar to English fines or recoveries; by abstruse family settlements, for no entail can be created of hereditament within the Isle, beyond the life of the grantee, or the heirs of persons in *esse*; by feoffment with livery of seisin, &c., which forms so essential and abstruse a part of the English code†.”

The statesmen are proudly conscious of the superiority of their tenures to those of the English farmers. “We do not hold farms as your tenants do in England,” said the wife of a statesman to me, “they pay so much for them, and return them to the proprietor: ours are our own property: we leave the whole to the eldest son.”

* Feltham.

† Johnson's *Jurisprudence of the Isle of Man*, 1811.

But however gratifying to the speculative philanthropist might be the aspect of a country parcelled out into small lots, held by proprietors transmitting them in hereditary independence to their eldest sons, and raising corn, cattle, and flax, for domestic manufacture, for their own use, and for exportation, pasturing their sheep and gathering their fuel on the common-lands, rights to which they are entitled by the nature of their tenures, the system is practically vicious; diminishing the wealth both of the small farmers who were apparently interested in the preservation of it, and of the public at large, and indeed containing within itself the seeds of its own dissolution.

The expense of rearing and educating a large family, though the children, as they grow up, contribute to their own support by assisting in the labours of the field or domestic manufacture, presses heavily upon the estate; and the portions of the daughters, which sometimes amount to 200*l.* prove an additional incumbrance. The support of the widow constitutes another burden, as “if any man die, she is entitled to one half of all his goods, and half the tenement in which she lives during her widowhood, if his first wife*.”

* The women have singular privileges. “Wives have the power to make their wills (though their husbands be living), of one-half of all their goods; except in the six northern parishes, where the wife, if she had had children, can only

The proprietor becomes involved in debt, and borrows money on the security of a mortgage*, and if he fail in redeeming it, is dispossessed of his property and quits the Island, or betakes himself to any occupation within his reach. Such is the actual condition of most of the statesmen and small farmers throughout the Island. As it may be fully supposed, the class is fast disappearing: multitudes of them have been swallowed up in the extending estate of Mr. Gawne, and that of Englishmen and other strangers, who have embraced opportunities of purchasing land in the Island. Some of the estates which have been formed by the gradual absorption of the property of the smaller proprietors, amount in value to some thousands per annum. The minister of Peel informed me that not one of those persons who were considered the principal inhabitants in the neighbourhood of that town, when he first arrived there, remains. Next to General Goldie, the principal proprietor is Mr. Gawne, who obtained his fortune chiefly by his brewery: he resides in the south of the Island, and devotes his attention to agriculture and planting. His garden and hothouses are celebrated of a third part of the living goods."—*Feltham*. Tradition says that the ladies of the southern division of the Island obtained their superior privileges by assisting their husbands in battle.

* In 1825, the mortgages on Manks Estates amounted to 800,000*l*. See *Appendix*, Note iii.

brated. The bishop's extensive property has been always remarkable for good cultivation. The encroachment of the gentry, on the old system, is regarded by the natives with futile jealousy.

That a system which entailed poverty and debt on the farmers must prove unfavourable to agricultural improvement, to which capital is necessary, is obvious. But the small proprietors of whom we speak, are as much indisposed to the adoption of plans of improvement, as they are, from want of capital, incapable of carrying them into effect. Pursuing the beaten track of their forefathers, and limiting their views to their own land and that of their neighbours, they regard projects of improvement, if suggested to them, as innovating on established practice, and will not incur the risk of what they conceive to be an experiment. They are incapable of adopting any enlarged system of management; and the land is inadequately cultivated, and the breed and growth of cattle are neglected. One instance of the baneful effect of the independent system may be mentioned: in regard to the growth of flax, each statesman raises it on his own land, whether the soil is adapted to it or not.

The manifest inferiority of the produce of a country parcelled out into small estates, arising from the want of means of enterprise, of public spirit, and the powerful stimulant of example, when compared with that of those in which there

is a due gradation of proprietors, affords irrefragable proof of the folly of those speculators who would attempt to frustrate the Divine Economy, check the developement of natural wealth, and by arbitrary enactments, enforce poverty, on the plea of establishing independence.

The defective farming of the small proprietors in the Island has been much attributed to their frequent participation in the herring-fishery, which diverted their attention, as well as their capital. It is still the frequent practice of the farmers to purchase a boat, and share in the profits of the fishery. Where man's pursuits are amphibious, and his livelihood is derived equally from agricultural and from maritime employments, both are neglected*. Another, and principal cause of the neglect of agriculture in the Isle of Man, was the illicit trade of smuggling, the profits of which engrossed the attention of the natives. Felt-ham states that "The prejudices to the king's revenue were nearly 350,000*l.* per annum; and the value of the seizures on the coast of Ireland, from the Island, 10,000*l.* per annum:" and that the

*The commissioners of the Manks legislature on the herring-fishery recommend, in their *Report* (A. D. 1827), the employment of the fishermen in the cod-fishery during the absence of the herrings, in order that they may become more efficient seamen by being withdrawn from agricultural pursuits, to which they are induced by what they call the most injurious and unnatural union of the two trades of fishing and farming.

extent of smuggling was attributed by "The Commissioners appointed in 1792, to decide on the duke of Athol's appeal, to the old incomplete mode of collecting the customs under that family, and that they recommended it being placed under the crown." The effect of the suppression of smuggling in promoting agricultural improvement is thus alluded to by the same author. "The union to the British crown in 1765, gave, like the union of Scotland in 1706, a temporary alarm to the people. A respectable native thus describes its effects. 'The local trade, so long carried on here to the detriment of the crown, being now totally suppressed by the care and attention of his Majesty's civil government in the Isle, aided by the vigilance and activity of the revenue officers and cutters, they have turned their hands with uncommon spirit and diligence to cultivate the more innocent and laudable, though less lucrative, art of agriculture, and the linen-manufacture. They have lost, it is true, a certain species of commerce, of no advantage to the place in general, as but few in comparison were enriched thereby, while it was secretly undermining them, as it introduced a spirit of idleness and dissipation, and from the easy acquisition of spirituous liquors, and other foreign luxuries, was tending fast to debauch the minds, corrupt the morals, and enervate the constitutions of the common people; the gains so lightly acquired being for the most

part as lightly liquidated. Instead of this, a more pleasing and agreeable prospect has opened. *Sublatâ causâ, tollitur effectus*. Industry and sobriety have taken place, and diffuse their influence, which we have reason to hope will daily increase.' "

But the Manks were not so easily persuaded of the beneficial effects of the Union; their dissatisfaction was expressed in an old song, of which the following couplet is a sample,

" For the babes unborn will rue the day,
That the Isle of Man was sold away;
For there's ne'er an old wife that loves a dram,
But what will lament for the Isle of Man."

The just anticipations of the writer above quoted have been realized; the cultivation of the land has been improved in proportion to the failure of illicit resources.

During the war, the navy, congenial to the maritime situation and habits of the islanders, afforded them an unfailing resource. The Isle of Man has perhaps furnished a much larger number of able and excellent seamen to the public service, in proportion to their population, than any other district of the British Empire. No sailors are preferred to the Manksmen by British officers. There are at present residing in the neighbourhood of Castletown, two captains in the royal navy, natives of this Island, both of whom were impressed, one out of a collier in this harbour, who became Nelson's first lieutenant at Trafalgar.

It is remarkable that the Manks sailors exhibit a superior degree of self-respect and good conduct, resulting from their birth as the sons of independent proprietors; a moral advantage which certainly counterbalances many of the evils of the system. That they have seldom risen to eminence, and that out of the vast numbers which Man has furnished to the navy, none should have associated his native island with his own fame, has arisen partly from the singular circumstance of the Manksmen concealing, both in the navy and army, their birth, and passing for Irishmen, from apprehension of the animosity evinced by the Irish towards them; partly, to escape the taunts to which the ill name acquired by their Island, from having been the asylum of debtors and citadel of smugglers, frequently exposed them; and partly, from the usual practice of those Manksmen, who have gained the means of living out of the Island, never to return to it.

The military service has been far less congenial to the habits of the Manksmen than the naval; and the *esprit de corps* of these islanders has never been roused into action, as in Scotland, by the formation of a local corps.

There is one branch of employment connected with the present system which cannot be too zealously encouraged, the domestic manufactures, already alluded to, which are carried on by the

females, who are consequently never idle. At whatever hour the cottage or farm-house is entered, the women and girls will be found, unless employed in the field or farm-yard, intent on the labour of the spinning-wheel or loom. They fabricate fishing-nets, woollen cloths, cottons or linens. The rigid economist, who could desire the entire transfer of the domestic manufacture to Leeds or Manchester, as requiring a far less portion of labour, and consequently of cost, forgets that the time actually bestowed on it is *leisure*, which would be otherwise unemployed, unprofitable, and consequently exposed to temptations, to discord, and vice. The employment which it would afford to a few additional manufacturers in a large town would ill atone for the moral evils resulting to a numerous peasantry.

In the year 1781, 32,201 yards of linen were exported; in 1807, 90,305; but since that period the quantity has been rapidly declining.

There is a woollen manufactory near Douglas; a cotton-manufactory was long ago established, but failed. Hats are manufactured of coarse woollen, in substance extremely thick and heavy, lasting from two to three years, and costing two shillings.

The bleaching in Laxey Glen has obtained much celebrity; stuffs are sent thither from all parts for the purpose, and exported; the grass-bleaching being preferred to the artificial chemical process.

The price paid for bleaching has very much fallen. A flourishing brewery has been established about two years, by some people from Norfolk, on the bank of the river: the exemption from the duty on malt, which this Island enjoys, is favourable to the consumption of beer and ale; but the brewer complained of the increasing preference for spirits, which are equally free from burden. The price of rum, for which 6*d.* is paid for the glass, in England, is 2*d.* in the Isle of Man, and of brandy, which is bought in England for 1*s.*, but 4*d.* here: gin is 3*d.* per glass: whisky is scarcely known. The cheapness of wine and spirits attracts yachts to the island for the purpose of obtaining supplies. Ale was in Man, as in Wales and Scotland, formerly the sole beverage of the people, and was of a superior kind. “As God has given this blessing in plenty to comfort them in their misfortunes,” says Sacheverel, in his *Account of the Isle of Man*, 1680, “so he has given them hearts to make use of it (I wish I could say with moderation).” A paper-mill has been also erected in Laxey glen; the rags employed in the manufacture are imported.

In trade the Manksmen take little share. One proof of this is afforded by the circumstance that there is no Jew in this Island, the only one who settled here having been converted*.

The fisheries, especially that of the herring, form

* See *Appendix*, Note III.

the principal resource of the natives next to land. The herrings appear off the coast of Man in June, and remain till September, when they migrate to the eastern coast of the Island, and deposit their spawn, remaining there till November. The vessels used are half-decked. They are built by the eye. The reputation of the Manks boat-builders is not confined to the Island*; their keels are very short, and though swift sailers, they pitch exceedingly, and are not considered as safe as the English, which are lugger-built, longer, and perpendicular at the ends, and being followed by long trail-nets are very successful in the fishery. The Manksmen are now imitating both their boats and their mode of fishing†.

The herring-fishery of Man is subject to the jurisdiction of an officer called the water-bailiff, who presides in the Admiralty courts of the Island, and assists as a judge in the Courts of Chancery and general gaol-delivery: he delegates the immediate superintendence of the fishery to two admirals

* Mr. Macniell, of Colonsay, employed them to construct the vessels which he uses for ferrying cattle, and conveying his other produce to the coast.

† The Manks Commissioners attribute the superior success of the English fishermen to the smaller size, and consequent steadiness and security of their boats; observing, that in the memory of many living persons, the average size of the Manks fishing-boats had nearly trebled, and some of the largest are now little or at all short of being double the tonnage of some boats from St. Ives. After drawing a com-

nominated by himself; these are masters of boats, themselves fishermen, direct the time of sailing and of casting the nets, and adjudge separately and singly, unless they choose to call to their aid the advice of any of the senior fishermen, all disputes among the fishermen. Their decisions are subject to the appellate jurisdiction of the water-bailiff, but are implicitly submitted to, as that officer never, as he informed me, received complaints respecting them. Mr. Quirk, the present water-bailiff, has by his judgment and conciliatory conduct materially checked their former litigious disposition. Great difficulties, however, arise from the disputes of the Manksmen with the English and Irish fishermen, who do not acknowledge the authority of the admirals, and submit only to the laws of the realm. There are belonging to the former, at present, 100 vessels, from St. Ives, and other parts of Cornwall; the latter also are numerous from the vicinity of their coast, but their enterprise is much restrained by want of capital, and their boats are of an inferior description. The chief subject of contention between the Manks and Englishmen is the period

parison between the English and Manks fishermen, the Commissioners conclude by stating their opinion, that the Manksmen, by imitating the principal habits of the Cornish fishermen, would reduce the number of his crew one-half, the labour of the remainder two-thirds, and augment the comforts of the whole in a still higher proportion.—*Report*, 1827.

of commencing the fishery, and of shooting the nets. The former never fish before the 5th of July, and shoot their nets invariably after dark, to avoid alarming the fish; a deviation from this rule being permitted only on special liberty from the officers or water-bailiff; the latter break through both these customs, taking the sea in June, and shooting their nets while the sun is up. The Manksmen complained on the subject to the House of Keys, by whom their representations were submitted to the Board of Northern Fisheries, who decided in favour of the right claimed by the English, as being authorized by the act of parliament to fish at all seasons on the British coast. Notwithstanding the jealousy excited by this difference, the English fishermen are held in estimation for their orderly conduct and skill in the fishery. The old Manks statute prohibiting fishing from Saturday morning till Sunday at night after sun-set, on pain of forfeiting boats and nets, is observed; and the take of Monday is generally superior to that of other days, in consequence of the less previous disturbance of the fish. The manksmen had an old quarrel with the Irish respecting the side of the vessel from which the net should be cast, originating in the direction given by our Saviour to St. Peter, which produced the miraculous draught. This was determined by the act of 1793, which decided,

in conformity to the above supposed precept, that the net should be shot from the star-board side.

The floats used in the herring-fishery are made of dog-skins, which are found much better adapted to the purpose than those of sheep; to this circumstance may be partly attributed the number of dogs kept in the Island. Tarred-nets are prohibited by law: the cran used for the purchase and sale of fresh herrings is legally made only of oak-staves completely seasoned; and its measure was fixed. And it is also enacted, that any vessel should reveal the discovery of a scull of fish to the next, and so on through the fleet. The killing a sea-gull during the fishing-season is punished with a fine of 3*l.*, as the bird is useful in indicating the course of the fish. The fishery has been unprosperous during many years, excepting the single year of 1824, and especially from that time. Mr. Gelling, the minister of Peel, traces its ill success as far back as 1802, when he first entered on his charge. The success of the fishery was long stationary. “The number of boats belonging to the Island, for which the herring custom was paid and annually returned by the coroners, was in 1781, 343; and in the year 1811, 331*.”

* *Staining.* In the Isle of Man Fisheries, 250 vessels of larger size than those formerly used, and upwards of 2000 seamen are now employed.—*Sir J. Rennie's Report.* (1835.)

The recent failure of the fishery is attributed partly to the fish having shifted their ground. It is considered by the fishermen themselves as a judgment on them for their unfortunate quarrel with the late bishop respecting the green-crop tithes, in which the men of Peel took a violent and tumultuary part. An instance of the capricious disposition of fish occurs in the case of haddocks, which formerly abounded on this coast, but have now wholly disappeared. But the herring-fishery has been liable in former times to long periodical fluctuations. Sacheverel, in his account of the Isle of Man, published in 1702, ascribes the great poverty of the inhabitants to their having for several years past lost their herring-fishery.

I went on board of one of the boats. It was of twenty-eight tons; the crew consisted of ten men: the proprietor of the vessel receives a double share of the fish taken. The original cost of it was 100*l*. It is the excellent practice of the Manksmen employed in the herring-fishery, to commence and end the day with prayers and hymns. Each crew is seen, when the vessel is on the point of sailing, standing up with their heads uncovered for this purpose. I purchased of these men the old Manks psalm-book, bound in black leather, and thoroughly soaked with salt water, which served them on these occasions, exacting from them a promise that they would procure another copy. The form of

prayer used was composed by Bishop Wilson, who also introduced into the Litany a clause “for the restoration or preservation of the resources of the sea.”

The departure of the herring-fleet on its nightly cruise is an animating spectacle. I witnessed it on a fine evening in a bay on the east of the Island. At the time of sailing, the crews all stood up in their vessels, offering up their customary prayers; the sails were then spread, and we reached Spanish Head just in time to see them run down the Race of Calf in full and rapid procession to the Western sea, where the fish were now congregated *.

* Mr. Mackenzie in his paper “On different sorts of herrings, &c.” (*Transactions of Highland Society of Scotland*, Vol. II.,) states, that whilst the Isle of Man was a storehouse of smugglers, the inhabitants in a great measure neglected the herring-fishery, using small boats, and only when the herrings came into the bays to spawn. Hence the Island scarcely supplied more than its own consumption; but when smuggling was abolished, people formerly employed in smuggling and fishing alternately, turned their whole attention to the herring and other fisheries, and invested their capital by degrees in upwards of 500 large boats, of from ten to fifteen tons burden, and some half-decked, which sallied out into the deep seas, and as far as the Clyde, Barra-head, &c.

What evidence does this Island, as well as Scotland, afford of the impoverishment which a country sustains from dependence on illicit resources,—a just and righteous dispensation of Providence!

The Manksmen appear from the statement of the Commissioners already quoted to have gone from one extreme to the other in respect to the size of their boats.

The cod-fishery has been neglected. There are banks abounding in this fish, a few miles distant west from the Island, which are believed completely to encircle it. The obstacles to entering on this advantageous trade are want of capital adequate to furnish vessels of twenty-five tons, the expensive lines required, and ignorance of the mode of salting the fish. These it is thought would be completely removed by a bounty on salted cod granted by the Manks legislature, but the members object to the principle of bounties. Yet to attract capital and skill to a trade which will prove profitable, and will, when once set on foot, no longer need the artificial prop necessary to its outset and early progress, seems a suitable object for a bounty. Flat fish, turbot, &c., are commonly speared.

The Island furnishes sufficient employment for its inhabitants. The labourers' wages are 1s. per day, ample, considering the comparatively low price of provisions; and those of mechanics, notwithstanding their general unskilfulness, 3s. Poverty is complained of, but there is little severe distress. There is no legal relief for it in the Island; workhouse, or even hospital. At the same time, the law prohibits any person from begging out of his own parish; the poor are aided or supported by private charity, weekly collections, and some funds arising out of private donations. When their distress is increased by typhus fever, or any

other epidemic, the minister applies to the wealthiest inhabitants, who contribute readily to meet the emergency. In Peel, the number of individuals receiving public alms is eighty.

The most complete arrangement for the investigation and relief of the wants of the poor, has been formed at Castletown, by the minister of the parish. He has divided the town into districts, to each of which are assigned visiters. The number receiving relief in Winter amounts to about seventy-two; and about half that number in summer. Begging is, however, not altogether suppressed, and a day in the week is allowed for the practice. The proprietors contribute here but 30% annually to the poor.

The cottages are in general of a very inferior description; often built of earth, or sod, thatched with straw, fastened down by ropes of the same material. A funnel of sail-cloth, covered with a coating of lime, serves as a substitute for a chimney. The most wretched habitation which I saw was in a retired glen near Ramsay; its sod-walls were green, and the sail-cloth funnel was wanting. It was tenanted by the son of an Irishman, who fled to this Island, like many of his fellow-countrymen, during the Rebellion. He had thirteen children, for several of whom his friends in Dublin have provided employment and subsistence. The bishop has erected cottages with chimnies, but the example has been little imitated.

To the above general account of the abodes of the peasantry, the little village of Craignish, forms a remarkable exception. Expecting to find, in the dreary sequestered height on which it is situated, forming part of the ridge terminating in Spanish Head, a collection of hovels, I was agreeably disappointed to discern cottages built of stone, a material which is fortunately at hand in this corner of the Island, neatly thatched, and white-washed, and equally clean within, as most of them were provided with chimnies which carried off the smoke. The first dwelling which we entered, was inhabited by an Englishman, a Chelsea pensioner, who obtained it by marriage with a Mankswoman. It exhibited all the cleanliness and comfort of an English cottage: and probably furnished the example to others. He spoke of the villagers as being orderly and neighbourly, and never making use of oaths, even in their quarrels. Each of them possessed a small piece of land, or cow: and distress was seldom known amongst them, except in some few instances of those who preferred enduring the privations to which they were occasionally exposed, to making them known by an application for relief to the public funds; and unhappily these were not sought out by excursive benevolence. By good management they distribute their food equally through the week, "boiling their pot" once a day, whereas the English peasant reserves

his provisions for the Sunday, and contents himself with a cold meal during the rest of the week. They have three meals, oat or barley meal twice, and potatoes with fish, and sometimes bacon, at dinner. The dried conger, which the English fishermen will seldom eat, and the Scotch hold in abhorrence, from the resemblance of the eel to the snake, is in Man a favourite article of food. The poor make use of another article of food not used in England, a small limpet, called fritters. They have, moreover, discovered, like the Scotch, that a rich soup may be made of the blood of the cormorant: notwithstanding the occasional use of such diet, the Manks peasantry in general fare well. The farmers live chiefly on oat and barley cakes; and meat, principally pork, which is often sold for 2*d.* or 3*d.* per lb.

The absolute dependence of the villagers, whose comparative exemplary conduct and happy lot I have described, on their own resources, may afford an argument to the opponent of the English system of poor-laws. In reference to the state of the poor, and their exemption from public relief, the Isle of Man and the Isles of Guernsey and Jersey bear a close resemblance: and to both the Isle of Man and the Channel Isles the same remark may be applied;—they afford little or no encouragement to the *settlement* of poor from other parts within their shores; whilst they facilitate the egress of

their own poor, whenever impelled by want of employment to seek their subsistence elsewhere*.

The usual dress of the Manks women consists of a jacket and petticoats. They are very proud of, and cherish their long hair. They are also particularly fond of showy colours, and wear much the tartan; this propensity is occasionally severely rebuked from the pulpit. The cheapness and variety of the tartan form its chief recommendation to the Manks, and not its Scotch origin; this would operate in an opposite manner. The only individual whom I saw in a full suit of tartan, a man of some property, wore it in defiance of the Manks, with whom he had quarrelled. The men are invariably attired in blue coats or sailors' jackets, and blue trousers, a complete naval costume. Their shoes worn on week days are made of skins, sometimes covered with hair, fastened with thongs across the foot, called kerranes. I saw them in the mountains. The common brogues of the Highlands of Scotland are of a very superior substance and texture. The children wear no shoes or stockings; and even adults, when very neatly clad, dispense with them when walking.

* The new system of poor-laws adopted in England will, by checking the immigration into this country of vagrants, from those parts in which legal relief has not yet existed, gradually render some regulations of the kind necessary, whilst it prescribes a course of proceeding founded on long and dearly bought experience.

The people are healthy, long-lived, and have very numerous families. There are often fourteen grown up persons in a family. The prevailing disorders are low typhus-fevers, which are chiefly confined to the towns, and rheumatic affections, and occasionally measles and small-pox, but consumptions are extremely rare.

CHAPTER XX.

ISLE OF MAN, HISTORY, GOVERNMENT, CIVIL AND CRIMINAL JURISPRUDENCE, SPIRITUAL COURTS, BISHOP, CLERGY, CHURCHES, COLLEGE, DISSENTERS, EDUCATION, RELIGION, MORALS, SUPERSTITIONS, CUSTOMS, ANTIQUITIES, AMUSEMENTS, CHARACTER, LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, NAMES, SOCIETY.

No good history of the Isle of Man has yet appeared. Its dependence upon neighbouring countries has rendered its foreign transactions subordinate; and its domestic annals, though interesting, as indicating the fortunate struggle of a small state for its rights and privileges, afford no examples of distinguished heroism or ability, with the single exception of the renowned prelate, Wilson, who, though not a native, contended with equal success, as well for the civil rights as for the ecclesiastical privileges of the island.

After being subject to the Saxons, having been added together with Anglesea to their dominion, according to Bede, by Edwin, one of the first of their kings who embraced Christianity; and successively afterwards to the Danes for a century, to the Norwegians, and to the Scotch, this Island was surrendered by the latter to Edward the First, king

of England; and after having been possessed by the Scrope and Montacute families, was granted to the house of Stanley, in the beginning of the fifteenth century, by king Henry the Fourth. To the Danish prince Orry, who conquered the Hebrides in the tenth century, the Manks are indebted for their representative government. Castle Rushen is a noble monument of their sway: the names of places in the island are mostly derived from the Danes, and also the name of *Christian*, in one parish, borne by the principal part of the inhabitants*. The title of king was retained by the Lord of the Island till 1504, when it was renounced by the second Earl of Derby.

The Stanleys, whose predecessor, the then Earl of Derby, had passed some popular laws for preventing arbitrary imprisonment, for regulating inheritances, and recovering debts, in Queen Elizabeth's reign, appear, during the seventeenth century, to have infringed on the rights and liberties of

* The Danes left colonies in Lewis and on the opposite coast of Ireland; and the counties of Cumberland and Westmoreland retain traces of their dominion. Fell, dale, force (water-fall), water (lake), are all derived from field, dal, foss, vand (Miös vand, &c., i. e., Miöss water, &c.), and probably, Boulder-stone, the name of a well-known fragment in Borro-dale, is nothing more than a corruption of the word *Bautastene*, the Scandinavian name for such monuments, whether of natural convulsion, or human worship; and not according to common acceptation, from its having been bowled or rolled to its detached position.

their subjects, and to have found in the officers of government, whom they appointed, willing instruments of their tyrannical encroachments. “It was in 1643, that through the fraud of a Deemster, the people surrendered their estates under the idea that they held them as tenants at will: but in 1703, the Keys stepped forward and obtained the *act of settlement*, which restored the violated tenures, the *magna charta* of the island*.” The states were placed by this act on their actual basis. “Bishop Wilson was instrumental in obtaining it from the Earl of Derby†.” The principles of civil and religious liberty, established in Great Britain by the Revolution of 1688, gradually extended their beneficial influence to an island, the constitutional privileges of which had suffered from infringements, similar to those which had been practised in Great Britain on a more extensive scale, by the abdicated monarch. The arbitrary proceedings of Lord Derby’s governor and the principal law officers, roused the House of Keys on an occasion some years subsequent: and they presented to the Earl of Derby a list of the grievances of which they complained, consisting of a series of encroachments on the civil privileges and ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the island, enumerated under twenty-five heads. It appears from this petition, and from the representation of an indi-

* Feltham.

† Stowell.

vidual, who suffered much from the oppressive practices of the government, and from other transactions, that the Earl had countenanced the invasion of the rights of the Church by his officers, required all appeals from the ecclesiastical courts to be made to him, as the dernier resort, and even assumed the power of appointing the officers of the spiritual courts, contrary to the established custom of the country, claiming moreover the metropolitan jurisdiction of the island, in virtue of its having been exercised by his family during one hundred years*. But the differences were at length brought to a crisis by the violent proceeding of the governor, in regard to the bishop and his vicars-general. The governor procured a sentence of a temporal court, inflicting the punishment of a fine on the bishop and his vicars-general, for suspending the archdeacon; and on their refusing to pay it, committed them as felons to the gaol in Castle Rushen, in 1722. They appealed to the king in council, who decided finally, in 1724, that the governor and deemsters had no right to fine and imprison them, as their jurisdiction did not extend to spiritual matters, and that their decree at a Tynwald Court was invalid, as it was not legally held. Thus the ecclesiastical privileges of the Island were secured.

In 1739, the lordship of the Island devolved

* Stowell.

on the Duke of Athol, by marriage, in consequence of the Earl of Derby dying without issue; and in 1765, the sovereignty was purchased by the crown. The statute authorizing the transfer is technically called in the Manks code, *the Revestment Act*. The constitution of the Island remained unchanged, and "the courts were untouched by it, except that the court of His Majesty in Council became the *immediate*, as well as *last* court of appeal. And the governor, lieutenant-governor, deemsters, clerk of the rolls, attorney-general, admiral and water-bailiff, held their offices of the crown *durante beneplacito**." The tenure of the judges is therefore less independent than that which the English judges acquired about the period of the Revestment Act. The royal franchises of patronage of the bishopric, escheats, forests, parks, &c., were reserved, in 1765, to the Duke of Athol, under condition of rendering two falcons to His Majesty on the coronation†. These have been sold by degrees to the King, and the duke has received nearly half a million for them.

The King, or Lord, the Governor in Council, and the House of Keys, constitute the legislature of the Island. This body was represented in an assembly held in 1422, by Sir J. Stanley, as existing since the days of Orry. The latter are

* Johnson.

† *Ibid.*

twenty-four in number: they are the representatives of the people: but the mode of electing them is much less free than that which prevails in other parts of the kingdom. They are chosen by their own body, as vacancies occur from death or resignation, naming two persons, of whom the governor selects one; and they are the principal landholders of the Island. The possession of landed property, and the age of twenty-one, are necessary qualifications, and foreigners are not excluded. The laws which they enact must be promulgated, according to ancient usage, by proclamation on the Tynwald Hill, and are not valid until ratified by that ceremony.

This singular remnant of ancient out-door legislation, on which the insular laws are still annually promulgated, is near Peel, and is preserved with care, and regarded with veneration. It derives its name from two words, *Ting*, signifying a court of justice, and *wald*, fenced. Its shape is that of a truncated cone: steps are formed in its sides conducting to its summit, on which the governor, or lieutenant-governor, attended by the House of Keys and officers of state, performs the ceremony, repairing thither in procession from the neighbouring church. It is a question, which probably will be brought to a practical issue, whether the King's acts of the British Parliament would be binding on the Island, except in matters of revenue.

The royal interference in matters relating to the internal regulation of the island, would certainly be a direct infringement on the constitution, unless sanctioned by the local legislature.

The enactment of laws, the levying taxes, and the superintendence of roads, constitute the various duties of the legislature; but they are now so light, that the office has become almost a sinecure. The laws are few and defined, and since the reformation of the code, have required little alteration. The expenditure of the island, consisting solely in the cost of keeping the high roads and bridges in repair, amounts to 2300*l.*, and is defrayed by taxes on wheeled carriages, dogs, and public-houses. The superintendence of the above works is intrusted by the legislature to a committee of their own body: the legislature having no other calls, may be considered as having resolved itself into a committee of roads. And certainly their attention to this portion of their duty is highly meritorious; for in no part of the kingdom are there better roads than those of the Isle of Man. The public cost which they occasion, is much lightened by the ancient custom of statute labour, which compels every landholder, by the terms of his tenure, to contribute an annual portion of labour to these works, and thus tolls are rendered unnecessary.

The lieutenant-governor is Chancellor of the Island; and he and the two deemsters preside at

the Court of Chancery, which is held once a month in Castle Rushen. They are assisted by the clerk of the rolls and water-bailiff, who sit at desks below. The attornies are ranged in rows opposite to the tribunal, as in our courts. The proceedings are simple and uninteresting, as the judgment is not pronounced orally or after the pleadings, unless in important cases, which require immediate decision. The judges take notes of each case, and after the conclusion of the day's proceedings, consult with the clerk of the rolls and water-bailiff, and the former records the award, which is afterwards promulgated in a written form on the next court day. That office is now filled by Mr. Mac Hutchin, a gentleman of reputation, unrivalled in the Island for legal attainments, abilities, and knowledge of its history and customs; and upon him devolves principally the burden of preparing, as well as of recording the judgments. The lieutenant-governor, Colonel Smelt, notwithstanding his advanced years, bestows a close attention to the proceedings. Statute has superseded the ancient breast-law; and where Manks precedents are wanting, English are sought and referred to. Written judgments, in cases of moment or intricacy, to serve as precedents, were first introduced by the Stanleys. The frequent occurrence of the Chancery Courts, no less than the simplicity of the forms used in the proceedings and of the tenures, prevent that

dilatoriness which constitutes so serious a grievance in the English Courts. The Court of Chancery is relieved from a burdensome portion of business by the power possessed by the deemsters, subject to its appellate jurisdiction, of deciding on unimportant or obvious points without consulting a jury.

The Manks laws and customs were all framed with the most cautious regard to the liberty and security of the subject, the preservation of which they guarded more vigilantly, from the well-grounded apprehension of the liability of power once ceded to be abused.

'The law that enacts that "no action of arrest shall be granted against a landed man, or native within the Isle, to imprison or hold him to bail, unless he has obtained the governor's pass, or that there is some other just cause to believe he designs to go off the Island;" and the extension of the privilege even to strangers, it being enacted, "that any person prosecuted for a foreign debt by an action of arrest, shall be held to bail only for his personal appearance to such action, and for the forthcoming of what effects he hath within the Island*," indicated the national spirit. The law which protected strangers from arrest for debt, contracted without the Island, has been repealed. Whilst it rendered the law of the realm on this

* Feltham.

point frequently nugatory, it converted the Island into an asylum for persons of ill character, induced habits of reserve and suspicion among the natives, and contributed mainly, together with the practice of smuggling, to degrade the Island in public estimation. There is another law indicating the same degree of tendency, which forms a contrast to our own more inflexible code: that "in case a person under fourteen years shall be arraigned for felony, the deemsters shall not proceed to trial, but shall cause the prisoner to be whipped at the governor's pleasure*."

The security of the natives of this Island was preserved by a curious old law "still" (says the individual whose authority is cited) "in force, that renders it felony to enter any man's house, without first calling thrice, 'Any body within?' or as it literally signifies in Manx, 'Is there any sinner within?' *peccagh* being an equivocal term applied also to man†."

An accused person is first tried at the Deemster's Court, in his own district, by a jury of six persons, selected from the same. There are two deemsters, one to each half of the Island, appointed by government; and invariably, though not necessarily, selected from the bar. The deemster, an officer so called from his practice of *deeming* or awarding the law, performs the various

* Johnson.

† Feltham.

duties of the English magistrates, acting independently in petty sessions, and in quarter-sessions: for though the members of the House of Keys and of the council are all magistrates, and sometimes called upon to act, the frequency of the deemster's courts, as they are held once a fortnight in each of the four districts of the Island, occasions a complete transfer of magisterial business to these officers.

“The deemsters are judges of the highest antiquity; and till certain modern acts of Tynwald, abridging their authority, possessed an higher magisterial power, both in the administration of the common and criminal law of the land, than any other judges in Europe. They governed the people by a *jus non scriptum*.” The Deemster's Court is a court of conscience, in which he adjudicates according to his discretion, assisted by precedent, which has gradually superseded in a great degree the ancient breast-law. His judgments are written. “He determines without jury on trespasses, slanders, assaults, batteries, debts, contracts, or dealings of the inhabitants.” “The deemster will, in particular cases, elicit a discovery of facts, in the absence of other evidence, by the oaths of the parties*.”

The appeal to oaths, both in the civil and ecclesiastical courts, as a dernier resort in the absence of evidence, is a remnant of ancient juris-

* Johnson.

prudence, which is found productive of much perjury. It is singular that a test so insufficient and unjust should be still retained. The transition from a denial of guilt to the additional confirmation of an oath is easy, and the temptation to perjury is too strong to be resisted, when exemption from the penalty of the law and from disgrace are the consequence. Those only who have not renounced all fear of God will be affected by this test; others will evade it.

A most important part of the duty of the deemster, like that of an English magistrate, is to arbitrate differences, offer advice to doubtful parties, and prevent litigation; and this they conscientiously discharge. Trespass juries are summoned by the deemster, to examine and estimate the damage done, consisting only of four persons living in the parish where the injury is sustained. Regular counsel are unknown to the Manks courts: the pleadings are performed by the attornies. The expense of law-suits is very small: contempt of court, by non-appearance at the summons of the stated officer, is fined 3*s.* 4*d.*, and the utmost facility is thus given to the indulgence of the irascible and litigious temper of the people.

The accused, if adjudged guilty by the deemster's court, undergoes a second and final trial before the court of general gaol delivery, by a jury of twelve

persons, furnished by the Island. He enjoys in both courts the ancient privilege of pleading his own cause, but now rarely, if ever, avails himself of it, relying on his counsel, a junior advocate selected by himself, and receiving no remuneration for his exertions. In these respects the Manks system exactly resembles the Scotch. "The Lord Cook saith, that the Isle of Man has such laws, the like whereof are not to be found in any other place, where every man pleads his own cause, without council or attorney, or any person that can gain by strife: all chancery business is ended in twelve or sixteen weeks at farthest, viz., four court days. Matters of common law are more dilatory*."

The practice of pleading their own cause was formerly general among the Manksmen; and they would frequently address the court in speeches of an hour or longer, exhibiting considerable eloquence. The clerk of the rolls recollected a young clergyman begging permission of the court, after commencing pleading in English, to continue in Manks, as he was most familiar in the use of it. The unsubdued force and expressive character of the native language, is a more suitable vehicle of the energy with which a Manksman pleads for his rights. The prosecution is conducted at the second trial by the attorney-general, an officer appointed by the crown. The acting attorney-

* Sacheverel.

general is now the deputy of that officer, who holds the office of recorder of Liverpool. Two positive witnesses are necessary to find a person guilty of felony.

The court of gaol delivery is an august tribunal. It was once held in the open air, and usually assembles twice in the year. "The governor or lieutenant-governor, the bishop, his archdeacon and vicars-general, deemsters, clerk of the rolls, water-bailiff, and attorney-general, all preside for the purpose of trying any crime, which by the law of the Island is deemed capital; those of a subordinate nature being tried and determined before the magistrates*." Formerly the twenty-four Keys sat also as judges: but their right was questioned by Mr. Peel, and has not been established. "When the pleadings are concluded, and the jury agreed in their verdict, the deemster demands of the foreman in the Manks language, 'May he that ministers at the altar continue to sit?' If the foreman answers negatively, it is understood to be the precursor of *guilty*, and the bishop and clergy immediately retire: if affirmative, *not guilty* is returned, and the prisoner is discharged. The senior deemster pronounces sentence, (*privilegium clericale* being here unknown), and execution is delayed till pleasure of his majesty

* Johnson.

be known*:" (an interval of six weeks, as in Scotland, being allowed).

The attorneys are commissioned by the governor upon an examination of their qualifications, after having served during five years in the office of clerk of the rolls. The fees by which they are remunerated are small, being 10s. 6d. in the higher, and 5s. in the lower courts; and from 5s. to 7s. 6d. on consultations. Their incomes never exceed 500*l*.

"Besides these courts, there is the Court of Exchequer, which determines the right of tithes, cognizable previous to the Act of Tynwald in 1777, by the ecclesiastical courts of the Island, the Court of Admiralty, of which the water-bailiff is sole judge, holding cognizance of all pleas of the crown respecting maritime concerns and offences committed on seas, within three leagues from the shore of the Island, besides a superintendence of all matters relative to the herring-fishery. There are also courts of local and inferior jurisdiction. In each of the four towns of Casletown, Douglas, Peel, and Ramsay, is an officer called high-bailiff, who is conservator of the peace, superintendent of police, and has jurisdiction in all matters of debt under 40s.†." It is his duty also to direct buildings, repairs, cleaning streets, abating nuisances, &c. "In each of the six sheadings into which the Island

* Johnson.

† *Ibid.*

is divided, is a coroner, whose duties are equivalent to those of sheriff in England, who serves during one year, and has the power of holding inquests in sudden or violent death. To the coroner the deemster issues an execution for debt. He is paid by the district, and by perquisites. There is also in each parish a moar, who collects the rents and fines due to the lord; and also the escheats, deodands, waifs, and estrays, for the lord's use, and executes the precepts of the Baron's Courts*."

The baronial courts are distinct from those of government, and belong to the Duke of Athol, as seigniorial Lord of Man. Excepting the bishopric, which is a barony, all the other baronies of the Island, of which there were four or five, are dormant or forgotten. Each parish has also its captain, who may be considered a subordinate sheriff, who is conservator of the peace, and to whose custody is committed the cross, an instrument of the size of a man, which in cases of emergency requiring public aid, is conveyed by him to a neighbour, who carries it forward to another, and thus it proceeds from house to house till it has performed the entire circuit of the parish. And its detention, through neglect or other impediment, would be regarded with much dread by the inhabitants of the house in which it should occur. This ancient custom, described in the *Lady of the Lake*, is still observed;

* Johnson.

the last occasion on which it was practised was one calculated to strip it of all romantic associations. It happened a few years ago in Castletown. Mr. Gawne, who has large property in the neighbourhood, having lost some sheep, summoned forth the captain, and the cross was exhibited not in vain, for the robber was detected. The captain of Castletown resides in a good house in its vicinity.

I visited the gaol in Castle Rushen, but could not see the felons' side, and am not sure whether it now contained any*. They have a yard for exercise. There were several debtors imprisoned, all foreigners; as the islanders are liberated as soon as it is ascertained whether they possess property or are insolvent. In the former case, their land is mortgaged; in the latter, they are instantly discharged.

The present criminal code was framed and promulgated by act of Tynwald, in 1817, and supplied the manifold defects of the imperfect system previously in use, which was chiefly breast-law. It is provided by it, that no imprisonment for misdemeanor shall last longer than three years, and no fine shall exceed 500*l*. Whipping is the penalty of the law most frequently prescribed: but is usually, together with the amount of fines, &c., placed at

* There was only one person committed to Castle Rushen this year for felony.—See *Appendix*, Note IV.

the discretion of the Deemster, or the superior court. There were only four felons on trial at the last gaol delivery, a year intervening between it and the preceding. And it is remarkable that during fourteen years previous to the last twenty, there were none tried *. The common crimes are petty larcenies and assaults, which are cognizable by the Deemsters. Burglaries are unknown; and till lately bars and bolts were never used. There have been only four executions for capital offences during the last fourteen years; two for murder, one for sheep-stealing, and one very lately for rape. The last did not excite much curiosity; it took place on a new drop erected on the top of the gaol. That which preceded it about seven years ago, of the murderers, a man and woman, produced a strong sensation, and drew together a vast multitude of persons. The gallows used on the occasion is still standing near Castletown. No execution occurred during the previous forty-five years. The natives of Man feel, like the Scotch, a strong reluctance to prosecute in cases in which the punishment is death, unless for murder or cruelty, which they hold in great abhorrence. If urged to seek legal redress for the loss of a sheep, they declare that they had rather the thief deprive them of their whole flock than hang him. To this reluctance to shed blood

* See *Appendix*, Note IV.

even in cases of atrocious crimes some extraordinary laws of the Island may be attributed. The punishment of banishment from the Island, once very common, is now very unfrequent.

The spiritual courts are Consistory courts held alternately by the bishop and archdeacon, or their deputies. “The bishop’s deputy is the vicar-general, one to each division of the Island answering to the chancellor. The office of archdeacon, formerly distinct, is now united with that of one of the vicar-generalships. They, with the registrar, from the Consistory court, determine the validity of wills, &c., and sustain all causes respecting them, and all suits against executors. Besides inflicting church censures, they could formerly detain the party in the ecclesiastical prison, a subterraneous prison in Peel Castle, and that as a definite sentence; and the appeal was to the archbishop of York*.” “But of the power of immediate imprisonment the ecclesiastical courts have been within few years deprived†.” The bishop has an absolute power of suspending and degrading his clergy‡ for mis-

* Feltham.

† Johnson.

‡ The bishop is sole baron of the Isle under the Duke of Athol, and holds courts in his own name for his temporalities; if any of his tenants are tried for life, he may demand them from the Lord’s Court, and try them by a jury of his own tenants, and in case of conviction, the lands are forfeited to the bishop.—*Sacheverel*.

conduct. There are now no less than seven degraded ministers in the Island, one of whom (*horresco referens*) was punished for being intoxicated with the sacramental wine.

The power of the bishop in enforcing discipline is thus described by Bishop Wilson, in his *History of the Island**: "Offenders of all conditions, without distinction, are obliged to submit to the censures appointed by the church, whether for correction or example, (commutation of penances being abolished by a late law), and they generally do it patiently. Such as do not submit are either imprisoned or excommunicated, under which sentence, if they continue more than forty days, they are delivered over to the Lord of the Isle, both body and goods. The bishop and his vicars-general have power to commit to prison such as refuse to appear before

* Bishop Wilson states, in his life of Dr. Sherlock, his maternal uncle, that that divine was commissioned by the Earl of Derby to settle the affairs of the church of Man, which during the great rebellion had suffered in her doctrine, discipline, and worship, "which difficult work he went through to the entire satisfaction of the lord and people of the Island, which, by the blessing of God, continues as uniform in her worship, as orthodox in her doctrine, and as strict and regular in her discipline, as any Christian church in the world. The bishop drew up the code of ecclesiastical constitutions which passed into a law in 1703. The Lord Chancellor King bestowed the following eulogium on it: "If the ancient discipline of the church were lost, it might be found in all its purity in the Isle of Man."—*Stowell's Life*.

them. Before the beginning of Lent (which is observed here with great strictness) there is held a Court of Correction, where offenders, and such as have neglected to perform their censures, are presented; and if they are many, or their crimes heinous, they are called together on Ash Wednesday, and after a sermon to the purpose, and are appointed their censures, which are performed during Lent, that they may be received into church before Easter. Penance is performed in a sheet in a church. Offenders are enjoined purgation of themselves by their own oaths, and those of compurgation (if need be) of known reputation, if subject to scandal, and punished if they refuse,—by which offences which go unpunished elsewhere are punished in this Island.”

“If any person in our church censures, and having done penance, shall afterwards incur the same, he shall not be admitted to do penance again (as has been formerly accustomed), until the church be satisfied of his sincere repentance, during which time he shall not presume to come within the church, but be obliged to stand in a decent manner at the church door every Sunday and holiday, the whole time of morning and evening service, till by his penitent behaviour, and other instances of sober living, he deserves and procures a certificate from the minister, churchwardens, and some of the soberest men in the parish, to the satisfaction of

the ordinary, which if he does not within three months he shall be excommunicated *."

"The bishop has the power to grant special licences for marriage, which in England is confined to the see of Canterbury: they cost 40s.; a common license, 5s. Banns are therefore seldom published †." "Nothing," says Bishop Wilson, in the above *History*, "is more commendable than the discipline of this church. Public baptism is never administered but in the church, and private, as the Rubric directs. Confirmation and receiving the Lord's Supper, a necessary qualification for marriage." The bishop has a throne in almost every church in the Island. The present bishop, Ward, was the first appointed by the crown, the right of patronage having been purchased of the Duke of Athol, for the sum of 30,000*l*. The bishoprick was founded by St. Patrick, A.D. 447.

The bishop has a considerable property, in a ring fence, well cultivated. Bishop's Court, his residence, is built in a hollow, beneath a sandy declivity, on the north-western coast of the island. It is enclosed by tall trees, conspicuous in the midst of a generally treeless plain, partly arranged in avenues planted by Bishop Wilson. Part of the building is very ancient, and the great thickness of the walls indicates its having been

* Johnson.

† Feltham.

designed as a place of strength. Bishop Wilson rebuilt the greater part of it. Several modern additions have been made to it; a chapel constructed by the late Bishop Murray is a singular specimen of elegant choral architecture. The apartment now used as a dining-room is said to have been the study of Bishop Wilson.

There is a vast disproportion between the income of the bishop and those of the clergy. The livings, seventeen in number, are all, with the exception of four which the bishop retains, in the gift of the crown. There are two rectories of 250*l.* per annum, including the glebes: one of these, in the gift of the bishop, is attached to the archdeaconry, which is now held in conjunction with the vicar-generalship by the same individual, whose income thus amounts to 700*l.* per annum. The other livings average 100*l.* per annum, each; and, excepting two parishes, houses are provided for the incumbents,—in general very poor. The incomes of the clergy are frequently insufficient to meet their necessary expenses; and like the smaller landholders, they are commonly in debt. I saw one clergyman, near Douglas, receive the bishop in ragged clothes, and shoes half covering his feet with a few tattered ligaments.

As the clergy are too poor to employ curates, the bishop ordains three or four supernumeraries, whom he appoints to parishes during sick-

ness or absence of the incumbents. The clergy are very hospitable to the extent of their limited means. In measuring income in the Island by the English scale, the much greater cheapness of all the necessaries and luxuries of life in the former, must always be recollected.

The revenues of the church, as being extremely deficient and encroached upon, were much regarded by Bishop Wilson. "The income of the clergy arises from one-third of the impropriations which had been originally purchased of the Earl of Derby, by a collection made in the episcopacy of Dr. Barrow, during the reign of Charles the Second, partly got from the crown, partly from the nobility, and his own fund for the support of the church, schools, and ministers*." And the Earl had given two estates in England as a collateral security. The original deeds by which this transfer was executed were missing in 1739, when the Duke of Athol became lord of the Island, and were found by the bishop, after a diligent search, in 1745, during which period, the clergy despaired of recovering their apparently lost means of support. The remaining part of the impropriations vested in the lord of the Island, now belongs to the crown. Their amount does not exceed 1000*l*.

The income of the clergy is derived from tithes, which from the excessive number of persons by

* Feltham.

whom they are contributed, it is found extremely inconvenient to collect. One of the modes which the people adopted to baffle the attempt of the last bishop to levy the green-crop tithe was by separately paying it in kind. A great part of the property of the Island is freed from tithe by an ancient fixed commutation, in the shape of a modus or prescription, "real or pretended," as Bishop Wilson observes in his history. This system he considered as a violation of justice; observing, that there was a great deal of difference between being exempt by law, and exempt in conscience, and accordingly he paid tithes, from which he was legally exempted, in the parish of Ballagh, and prevailed on many to renounce the benefit of the modus*.

Bishop Wilson liberally contributed from his private purse, to the maintenance of the clergy, and of the church. "He made addition to their glebes, contributed to the repairs and improvements of their houses, and increased their comforts in a variety of ways†." The Chapel of St. Matthew, at Douglas, was built chiefly at his own expense, and to the building or repairs of the churches, he also subscribed.

The churches of the Island are notoriously small and poor, usually without a tower. It is stated, in a late *Appeal to British Christians in behalf of the Poor Churches in the Diocese of Sodor and*

* Stowell.

† Ibid.

Man, “that for 4000 of the poor in the town of Douglas, there is not sitting in any church of the establishment, and most of the respectable class, next above the poor, are also excluded. In several of the parishes, containing from 1200 to 1600 inhabitants, there are not sittings in the parish churches for more than 400 or 500 persons; and some of those churches are in such a dilapidated state, that they cannot long afford even the wretched accommodation which they afford at present.” The exclusion of the Isle of Man from the benefit of the public funds for the erection and enlargement of churches in Great Britain is pleaded in support of the appeal. The present bishop has already directed his attention to the maintenance and elevation of his church, by endeavouring to remedy the defects in the incomes and education of the clergy, and in the number and state of the churches. He entertains the hope of procuring from the government a larger portion of the impropriations for the clergy than the third which they at present possess, which would at once place them on a footing of competence and comfort. He has addressed the *Appeal* referred to, to the British Public, in behalf of the Churches, and has deputed Mr. Stowell, the biographer of Bishop Wilson, to second, by a mission to England, the efforts which he had himself already made for raising subscriptions for the purpose. He intends dedicating the first proceeds of the fund to the

erection of a chapel at Douglas, and to apply the surplus to the building and enlargement of churches or chapels in other parishes, on condition of their contributing a portion*.

This equitable and necessary mode of calling forth the resources of the Island by law applicable

* The produce of Mr. Stowell's mission, aided by other contributions, was 4000*l*. The bishop commenced his work of building churches, by procuring the condemnation of some of the old dilapidated ones. This can be effected, according to the law of the island, by the verdict of a jury, consisting of two masons and two carpenters. Each parish is bound by law to build and repair its church: and many of the edifices thus compulsorily erected are such as barely to protect the congregation from the weather, and so ill-constructed as speedily to need repair, and without any reference to durability.

The bishop applied his fund judiciously, by advancing 200*l*. to each parish towards the sum of 1000*l*., the calculated cost, provided his plan for building were adopted; and he has enjoyed the gratification of causing the erection of ten new churches and chapels, including a floating chapel at Douglas, the present of Earl de Grey, when first lord of the admiralty. This place of worship is regularly filled by mariners, who would enjoy no other means of attending Divine Service. The bishop has erected, in a sequestered part of the Island, in which there is a population buried among the hills, out of the reach of any place of worship, a chapel and school-house under one roof. The entire structure is of a cruciform shape: the chancel and transepts are appropriated to Divine Service: the nave is used as the school-room, and divided by sliding doors, from the rest of the building, which are thrown open for public worship. The bishop proposes erecting additional churches and chapels.—1836.

to the purpose, on the principle acted upon in England, could not and ought not to be neglected. And, at the same time, the poverty of the Island, and its exclusion from public bounty, to which England and Scotland are both indebted, supply a just ground of claim on British benevolence.

The bishop does not despair of executing another project,—the foundation of a college for the education of the Manks clergy, who may be ordained, like the Scotch, at twenty-one years of age. The only fund at present applicable to the purpose, is the 500*l.* per annum, by which the school at Castletown is supported. This is the seminary in which all the Manks clergy are educated, and acquired considerable reputation from the superintendence of the late master, Mr. Cazeles, who obtained the honours of senior wrangler and second medallist at the University of Cambridge, and conducted it during half a century. It is now placed under the charge of the government-chaplain.

The additional sums necessary must be furnished by subscriptions within the Island, and in Great Britain. The success which has rewarded a similar plan of the bishop of St. David, affords him much encouragement. And it is hoped that such a place of education might, from its vicinity, and from the great cheapness of living, attract students from Ireland, and the adjacent parts of England,

who could not otherwise afford the expenses of a residence at college; and that Mona may become once more, as in ancient times, "the fountain of honest learning and erudition*."

* It affords me much gratification to state the successful result of the zealous efforts of Bishop Ward, and the other trustees of Bishop Barrow's fund to establish a college for the objects above specified. That worthy prelate's pious intentions have been thus fulfilled, after an interval of nearly two centuries. He was uncle of the famous Isaac Barrow, and was bishop and governor of the Isle of Man during a few years, about the time of the Fire of London. He saw with concern the inefficient ministry of the island, and endeavoured to provide for it by a grant of twenty pounds per annum. This has gradually increased to 480*l.* per annum; a sum which has been appropriated to the maintenance of the school: and an additional sum of 1000*l.* has resulted from accumulation.

Bishop Ward conceived the project of establishing a college out of the proceeds of the fund thus arising, and the contributions which it might be in his power to raise, within the Island. The latter amounted to 2000*l.* A builder having contracted to erect the proposed college for the sum of 3000*l.*, the work was completed. But the actual cost amounted to nearly double that sum; and the trustees have been consequently much in debt and difficulty, from which they hoped to be rescued by the aid of government, the expectation of such aid having been held out to them. They recommend the appropriation of a portion of the crown tithes of the Island, which are worth 700*l.* or 800*l.* per annum, to the purpose; and this suggestion was favourably received. But as yet nothing has been done.

The building is painfully inadequate to the requirements of a college and a large school. As, excepting two or three

The growth of dissent from the established church has been rapid in the Isle of Man. "The Reformation," says Bishop Wilson, in his *History*, "was begun something later here than in England, but so happily carried on, that there has not, for many years, been one papist a native of the Island,

youths destined for the Manks Church, who must be natives of the Island, (or else they are not ordainable from the college by the bishop,) the rest of the pupils are, in fact, boys from seven to sixteen or seventeen years of age: and for them the object of the college, or rather school, is to give them, on very moderate terms, an education much the same as they would receive at the large superior grammar-schools of England. The system resembles rather the grammar than the public schools in England. The prescribed course of education, from which no deviation is allowed, embraces the Greek and Latin, mathematics, English grammar and composition, geography and history, writing, and arithmetic. The college fees are (per quarter),—

	£.	s.	d.
For pupils between 7 and 10 years of age,	1	0	0
" " 10 and 13 "	1	10	0
" " 13 and 18 "	2	0	0
above 18 "	2	10	0.

There is an annual examination, after which prizes are publicly awarded by the governor, bishop, &c.

The college opened in the autumn of 1833: the number of pupils, being 40 at the commencement, has increased to 170; of whom about 80 or 90 board in the college, under the especial care of the vice-president and his assistants; about 30 or 40 more board with one of the masters, and the rest with their friends, or in approved lodgings in the town. Of the pupils, 70 are English, 50 Irish, 30 Manks, 10 Scotch, and a few from

nor indeed are there dissenters of any denomination, except a family or two of Quakers, and even some of these have been lately baptized into the church." A complete unanimity on the subject of religion existed in Sacheverel's time.

India, sons of missionaries, placed here either by their parents or the Church Missionary Society.

A chapel is annexed to the College, built by the bishop, partly out of his church-building fund, and partly out of his private purse; and two full services are performed in it on every Sunday. The public are admitted to it, and enjoy ample accommodation of free seats. A considerable portion of religious instruction is afforded to the students by the principal and his assistants, both on Sundays and other days. Vigorous Church Missionary and Bible Associations have been established in the college.

Want of funds has prevented the execution of the comprehensive plan originally proposed, of reviving the parochial schools, which are, for the most part, lamentably neglected, and putting the grammar-schools into connexion with the college. Exhibitions from these schools at the college, and at one of the universities from the college, would prove a most salutary species of endowment.

In addition to the reasons for assistance from government enumerated, it is alleged that the college confers an important benefit on the Island, inasmuch as it has already caused the outlay within it of 15,000*l*.

The above particulars have been communicated to me chiefly by the excellent principal, Mr. Wilson, to whose energy and ability in the discharge of his duties, the amplest testimony is borne; and by John Mac Hutchin, Esq., one of the trustees of Bishop Barrow's Fund, who has afforded Bishop Ward the most zealous assistance in the execution of the scheme.—
1836.

But, in 1776, the Methodists, who directed their attention particularly to the Celtic portion of our people, in Cornwall and in Wales, finding in their disposition to religion and to religious excitement, unregulated by education,—for as yet the education of our Celtic population was almost entirely neglected,—the utmost encouragement, obtained a footing in the Isle of Man. John Wesley visited the Island, and gave the following description of it. “We have no such circuit either in England, Scotland, or Ireland; this Island is shut up from the world; there are no disputers, no dissenters of any kind. The governor, the bishop and clergy oppose not. They did for a season, but they grew better acquainted with us*.”

The Methodists have now erected chapels in almost every parish†, raising money for the purpose by loan, and repaying it punctually by their contributions. They have not, however, seceded from the established church, and adhere, as the Wes-

* Staining.

† From an authentic statement of a member of their sect, communicated to me by J. Mac Hutchin, Esq., the Methodists in the Isle of Man amount to 3443: between one-eleventh and one-twelfth of the population. They have thirty-four chapels, ninety-two local gratuitous preachers, and six English travelling preachers, supported by the members, with a salary, according to the number of each of their families, from 100*l.* to 160*l.* per annum.—1836.

leyan Methodists did, till within few years, to its services. In the country parishes, the Methodists attend generally more regularly than others on the public worship of the church, and consequently often partake of five services on the Sabbath-day. Of the rapidity with which, from practice, they can transfer their persons from one place of worship to another, I witnessed an instance. Two-thirds of a congregation which had completely filled the parish church, adjourned at once to an adjoining chapel, where the minister sat in his desk awaiting their arrival; and we recognised as we passed, by their discordant voices, the choir which had already performed in the church.

In the towns, the line of demarkation is more strongly marked. Yet of the good spirit manifested by the Methodists, Castletown affords a proof. The effect of the division of that town into districts for visiting the poor, already mentioned, has been to transfer the greater portion of the management of the poor from the Methodists to the established church; yet the latter, far from having any jealousy of the Churchmen, co-operate with them actively.

The deeply-rooted attachment of the Manks to the established church, which precluded dissent till the arrival of the Methodists, and still binds the adherents of this sect to its ordinances, is attributable to various causes. Among these may be

enumerated, their insulated situation*, and distinct habits,—the tenacious adherence to ancient rites and customs, and reverence for authority which distinguishes them, in common with the other branches of the great family to which they belong;—the remarkable combination of strict discipline with perfect toleration in their ecclesiastical code; no religious test being required in the Isle of Man as a qualification for office, nor even license necessary for preaching;—the commanding influence of the episcopal office, endowed with elevated rank, civil and ecclesiastical power, and ample wealth, yet from its peculiar constitution, which assigned to it a throne in every parish church, brought into contact with every portion of the diocese;—and partly, the extraordinary ascendancy which the episcopal station derived from the personal character and important services of Bishop Wilson,—a prelate tolerant and charitable, yet inflexible in the maintenance of his official authority, and the discipline of his church;—contending triumphantly, yet at much personal cost and suffering, for the civil privileges of the Islanders, and promoting, by his unwearied personal exertions, the economical and moral, as well as spiritual improvement of the people committed to his charge.

* The more decidedly sectarian spirit in the towns is owing partly to greater facility of combination, and partly to extraneous influence.

The veneration with which the memory of Bishop Wilson is cherished, is unbounded: I conversed with some old persons who remembered him, and with one who well recollected his funeral,—one of the most impressive scenes which the Island ever witnessed. His monument in the churchyard of Kirk Michael is religiously preserved.

The respect to the bishop is remarkable; the people when they meet him bow to the ground, though by no means addicted to such respect; for, unlike their neighbours the Irish in this respect, they seldom if ever salute a stranger. When the present bishop, on his first arrival, passed through Douglas, the populace removed his horses from his carriage, and drew him along. The fishermen ascribe the late continual failure of the herring-fishery to their opposition to the payment of tithes to the late bishop.

Besides Methodists, there are some few Independents, who will probably be drawn to the Presbyterian form of worship by a minister whom Dr. Gordon, of Edinburgh, has lately sent to the Island. The Roman Catholics have now sufficiently increased to form a congregation, which assembles in a chapel in Douglas.

Education is general in the Island. The salaries of the schoolmaster are small: in one instance, I found the remuneration amounting to but 25*l.* per annum, of which 7*l.* to 10*l.* was derived from an allowance,

and the rest from fees. The schoolmaster is usually provided with a house. The fees for reading only are limited by law to 2s. 6d., but they do not always reach that amount. Navigation is sometimes taught. Female education, which in all parts of the world lags behind that of the other sex, has made little progress in the Isle of Man. A girl's-school has been established in Kirk Michael by the ladies of the bishop's family.

The free-school at Douglas consists of 110 boys, and the same number of girls: many of the latter were clad in a neat uniform at the expense of their parents. The children contribute one penny per week each to the cost of their education; and yet, notwithstanding the excellence of the instruction afforded, they attend with reluctance, showing a preference to other schools, at which they pay the usual fees, because exempt from that regular attendance which is exacted at the free-school.

It might be expected that the various opportunities of religious instruction enjoyed by the natives have been improved. In conformity to this expectation, the actual state of religion in the Island is favourably spoken of. The fear of God implied in the abstinence of the people from violating the third commandment, the horror of sacrilege, the exemption from the curse of infidelity, that poisonous plant whose seeds, though scattered widely over Europe, have not yet sprung up in the rich but uncultivated soil of the Celtic portion of our popu-

lation, indicate a deep sense of the solemn truths of religion. It is remarkable that the Manks language is destitute of oaths, though its objurgatory expressions are said to be very forcible; amongst which "you rough fellow" is one of the most obnoxious. The emissaries of infidelity have not yet translated their pestilent productions into the Celtic languages; and they are probably aware that the simplicity of the people has not been sufficiently corrupted to admit their dangerous sophistry. The recent arrival of a seller of infidel tracts in the Island excited a sensation like that produced by the escape of a wild beast from his cage. The horror of sacrilege was both cause and effect of the degree of criminality attached to it by the ancient laws, as up to the period of the Revestment Act it was among the treasons*. The respect of the Manks for public rites is proved by the frequent and general attendance of the people at the churches and Methodist chapels, and the caution which they show in holding their services at the latter at such times as not to interfere with those of the establishment†, and their numerous assemblages at the

* Bishop Wilson quotes a Manks curse, indicative of their fervid tone of feeling. It is founded on their horror of sacrilege: "May a stone of the church be found in the corner of your dwelling."

† In the towns, the Methodists now open their chapels during Divine service, a practice which many of them consider a great evil.—1836.

sacramental services in the country parishes, and, though in a less degree, in the towns, 300 often partaking of the ordinance on Easter-day in the church at Peel, out of a congregation of 700. The practice of the fishermen in offering up prayers and hymns before sailing has been mentioned. The custom of domestic worship, though much recommended by Bishop Wilson, whose usual question to his friends was "Have you set up an altar in your house?" is however by no means prevalent; though it is not unfrequent in the parishes in which the clergy have much enforced the duty of it.

Notwithstanding the respect for religion and its rites, it is to be remarked that drunkenness and concomitant profligacy abound. The extreme cheapness of spirits, the intercourse with strangers, occasioned by the maritime employments of the people, and the resort of vessels to the ports of the Island, sufficiently explain the cause of those evils. Public-houses have multiplied to a pernicious extent, though the recommendation of the minister, and, in towns, of the bailiff, is necessary to the granting the license; and the governor is opposed to their increase*. Want of cleanliness prevails much; and immorality and indelicacy are much increased by the practice of several members of a family sleeping in the same apartment and even

* The district society in Castletown has produced manifest diminution of vice, especially drunkenness.

bed. The tendency which might have been imputed to the old law of the Island (as to that of Scotland, which is still in force), legitimatizing a child, if its birth be followed in a year or two by the marriage of the parties, to encourage profligate habits, is rendered perfectly nugatory by the law having grown obsolete during many years, though not repealed. The disuse of it proves the influence of opinion in superseding law, produced no doubt by intercourse with England; for, previous to the Revestment, the law was acted upon. What else but the moral feeling with regard to the offspring of vice would prevent parents from placing it by their marriage on a level, in point of law, with the children of wedlock? And cases of this description must perpetually occur. Though there is much vice in the Island, there is comparatively little crime, as may be inferred from the return*.

The repugnance to common swearing has contracted the tendency of the multiplication of oaths in legal proceedings, and produces perjury, which abounds†.

* See *Appendix*, Note IV.

† We might learn a lesson upon this subject from the natives of Central India. "The natives of Central India are so aware of the tendency of the multiplication of oaths to diminish the respect entertained for them, that where oaths are resorted to as an ordeal, they are not used on other occasions."—*Malcolm's Central India*.

Though addicted to pilfering, the Manks, to their credit be it said, are thoroughly trustworthy when confidence is reposed in them.

The Manks differ from their Celtic brethren in paying no regard to genealogies, arising doubtless from the obscurity of their families.

They retain many superstitious notions common to the other branches of the Celtic family; the belief of fairies, the evil-eye, and witches. My guide, who accompanied me to the top of Snaefell, acknowledged his belief in the existence of fairies, but observed, sensibly enough, that he had never yet seen anything more hurtful to him than himself. He mentioned an instance of the appearance of these supernatural beings which occurred six years ago, and was notorious. A man of Laxey, somewhat intoxicated, met a party of them, and began forthwith to abuse and curse them as the devil's imps; they wreaked their vengeance on him by piercing his skin with a shower of gravel. My guide, perhaps recollecting that the fairies were within hearing, took their part, and expressed his assurance that they would not have molested him, had he not provoked them by his insults. The catastrophe did not terminate here. The offender sickened that night, his favourite horse died next morning, his cows died also, and in six weeks he himself was a corpse! He also assured me that persons walking in the neighbourhood of a church-

yard sometimes found themselves entangled in a crowd which suddenly vanished: a sign which foreboded a funeral; and a light issuing from a churchyard, indicated a marriage. He also avowed his belief of second-sight, and admitted its being commonly credited here.

The Clerk of the Rolls was applied to when deemster for a warrant against a witch, on the charge of depriving cows of milk, and causing them to sicken. The prudent judge applied to a cow-doctor for a remedy to the disorder of the cattle, and thus put a stop to the prosecution. On another occasion, some of his poultry having died from eating paint new laid on the walls of his house, the misfortune was ascribed to the malignity of a witch; and as it ceased after he had shot a hare, that animal was supposed to have contained the evil spirit. It is to this day the annual practice of the islanders (the Beltein) to kindle large fires on the hills, and keep them perpetually blazing from the 1st to the 14th of May, as a preservation against witches.

Sacheverel mentions some of these superstitions, and describes, with evident credulity, some of these extraordinary apparitions.

The funerals are sometimes attended by large numbers of people. I witnessed that of a rich farmer's wife. The hearse was preceded by many persons on foot and horseback, and followed by two

carts filled by females, well attired in deep mourning, gigs, men and women on horseback, and a crowd on foot, forming a numerous assemblage. An entertainment is usually provided for the attendants at the house, before the ceremony, at which excess is very uncommon; and a dinner is given there to a few friends after it is concluded. It is the practice in this Island, as in Cornwall, I was informed, to sing hymns whilst the corpse is conveyed through the churchyard to the grave, and probably from the same reason,—the abundance of Methodists.

The Manks retain some singular customs of Popish origin. On Christmas-eve, they flock to the churches, bearing the largest candles which they can procure, and forming a brilliant illumination. The anniversary of the landing of St. Maughold in the Island is also observed.

Of antiquities there are Runic fragments, stone circles, and crosses.

The Manks have no games or public amusements, their pleasures are domestic or convivial. To this peculiarity in their customs is ascribed their notorious love of litigation. Where one species of excitement is wanting, others will be sought. The Manks, being without other rendezvous, flock eagerly to the Courts, which being held frequently in each district, prove a regular source of interest and gratification. The practice tends to exercise

and improve the acuteness of their faculties, whilst it encourages a contentious disposition; to which the inexpensive nature of the proceedings ministers not a little. Instances occur of persons seeking redress in a court of law for the sum of one shilling. It has been deemed necessary to restrain the propensity to litigation by law.

I never saw more eager and intelligent attention in any audience than among the people of the lower classes assembled at the Deemsters' Courts; they appeared riveted by the arguments of the pleaders, and obviously, by the expression of their countenances, fully comprehended them.

The Manks are fond of music, but have no instruments. Those used on the occasion of Bishop Wilson's triumphal procession from his prison in Castle Rushen were flutes made of elder-tree; and they are not addicted to dancing. The theatre is open only during a fortnight in the year.

Indolence is a characteristic of the male part of the Manks population. The workmen observe the singular custom of allowing an interval of rest of two hours in the middle of the day; and no inducement can prevail on them to encroach upon it. They may be seen at these times lying stretched under hedge-rows by the road side. A Manksman will sometimes lose the chance of obtaining sixpence for a fish, if he must walk a mile for it. On the women devolve not only the domestic manufactures,

but even much of agricultural labour; and they are extremely industrious. Local circumstances explain this difference in the habits of the two sexes. Where the pursuits of the men are maritime, the employments of the house and of the field are necessarily much consigned to the females; and the former neglect them. Though the agricultural class in this Island has lately become more distinct in consequence of the cessation of smuggling, and the diminished inducement, offered to the former by the herring-fishery, to divert the attention from their land, the custom once established continues*.

In the virtue of hospitality the Manks yield to none. The beggar presents himself at the door of a cottage, and announces his intention of passing the night under its roof: he is admitted without inquiry to bed, board and lodging. The known kindness of the Manks to strangers has attracted much mendicity to the Island from England, and especially

* "As the fishery," says Feltham, "engages upwards of 5000 men during the most important summer months, the weeding and getting in of the harvest, &c., falls to the women, and the few men who prefer being on shore." And to the indolence of the men, and alternations of labour and repose, of danger and security, to which their seafaring habits expose them, must be attributed much of their vice and litigious propensities. Exemption from severe labour is perhaps the cause of the Manks peasantry being stouter than the English. I was particularly struck in some parts of the Island with the beauty of the children.

from Ireland. The numerous beggars met, on the roads and by-ways, are principally of this description, as the natives are prohibited begging out of their parishes, and they are sure of obtaining relief. This evil is occasionally checked by a prohibition on their landing, or by compelling them to quit the Island in the vessel which brought them. An old law restrains the importation of beggars or vagabonds into the country, on pain of forfeiting the boat*. This was more necessary in former times, when the Island was the ordinary place of refuge for debtors and vagabonds.

One of the leading dispositions of these Islanders, that of the great Celtic family to which they belong, is loyalty to their king, and attachment to their lords.

The Manks have invariably, during all the civil contests or foreign wars which have disturbed the kingdom, adopted and defended the side of their monarchs and of their lords. In the rebellion they seconded the loyal efforts, and sacrificed their wealth at the call of the Earl of Derby; whilst, at the same time, they evinced the most vehement indignation at the execution of Christian by the same Earl. "In the time of the Lord Protector Cromwell, the Islanders subscribed two sums of 500*l.* each, towards the royal cause,—a sum amounting to nearly half the specie in circulation†." A splendid testimony to

* Johnson.

† Feltham.

the loyalty of the natives, addressed to King George the Second, was elicited from bishop Wilson, by a calumny on them, which had obtained some publicity. At the commencement of the late war, the Manks evinced their characteristic zeal in defence of the kingdom, when threatened by the revolutionary war.

To the attachment of the Islanders to their lords, Bishop Wilson has also borne testimony: "The inhabitants have ever had a profound respect for their lords, especially for those of the House of Derby; but they are jealous of their ancient laws, tenures, and liberties:" two prominent characteristics of a Celtic tribe, proofs of the same tenacious attachment to their hereditary possessions and connexions.

Their second principle of action is illustrated by the history of the struggles for their rights and privileges. The Isle of Man exhibits, perhaps, the only example in history of a nation preserving its ancient laws, tenures, and frame of government, under the rule of several nations, and in spite of the encroachments and invasions of successive rulers, during several centuries, solely by legal efforts, and in conformity to its constitution.

The British Constitution has been formed under the various dynasties which have successively governed the kingdom. The history of trial by jury is the only portion of it which is strictly analogous to

that of the Manks constitution: and to this the perpetuity of the Hindoo Panchayet of India, or village courts of arbitration in civil matters under Hindoo, Mogul, and Mahratta dynasties, is in some degree similar.

The Manks, quiet and inoffensive in their ordinary temperament, are irascible when provoked or their rights are invaded. They have been occasionally guilty of serious tumults, of which the resentment shown by the natives on the imprisonment of Bishop Wilson in Castle Rushen, affords an example, when the residence of the governor, and probably his life, would have been sacrificed, but for the exhortations of the bishop.

On the promulgation of a law, in 1821, restraining the importation of English corn, which was attributed to the interested motives of the Keys, who were chiefly landholders, the population of Peel rose, and fairly drove out of the town a small party of yeomanry, whom the deemster had brought from Castletown to quell the riot. Similar violence was shown when the late bishop attempted to levy the green-crop tithe, to which he fully established a legal claim. And in the parish Kirk Christ Lezayre, the peasantry beat off the officers appointed to collect it. Since the transfer of the sovereignty to the crown, the allegiance and loyal feelings of the people must be considered as having also passed to the king.

Although the government of the Island is nominally vested in the Duke of Athol, it is practically carried on by the resident officers forming the executive departments; and the occasional animosities which arise between the duke and the Islanders are the result of their complicated and consequently conflicting interests, and not of the duke's official measures.

One effect of the insular situation of the Manks, and cause of their retaining the peculiarity of their manners, has been the preservation of their language. "Their language," says Bishop Wilson, "is Erse, or a dialect of that spoken in the Scotch Highlands with a mixture of some Greek, Latin, and Welsh words, and many of English origin, to express names of things not formerly known to the people of this Island."

Of literature there are no traces in the Manks language, excepting some songs composed in the style of Ossian, discovered by Bishop Hildesley, a few plaintive pieces set to national melodies, and verses written on particular occasions. Their cast is melancholy, like that of all the Erse poetry, apparently indicating, in the various branches of this ancient race, a mournful consciousness of the loss of former empire and independence. There are no relics of prose literature. To the above catalogue must be added a translation of Milton's *Paradise Lost*, by a clergyman, a work which a

competent judge described to me, as exhibiting considerable merit.

The Manks language was much improved by the publication of books. “The first ever printed in it, entitled *The Principles and Duties of Christians*, was published by Bishop Wilson, in 1699. Since the translation of the Holy Scriptures, the Liturgy of the Church of England, several of Bishop Wilson’s writings, and some other treatises on practical religion, into Manks, it has been materially improved. A grammar was published some years ago by the Rev. Dr. Kelly, of Essex, and the same author prepared a dictionary of the Manks, which will be soon committed to the press. Bishop Wilson procured a translation of the Gospel of St. Matthew into Manks, and got the other Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles translated. The Society for promoting Christian Knowledge published some editions of the Manks Scriptures, and the British and Foreign Bible Society, a stereotype edition of the New Testament*.

The translation of the Scriptures alluded to was planned by Bishop Wilson during his imprisonment in Castle Rushen. The formation of village libraries, by Bishop Wilson, the establishment of schools throughout the Island, and the recent

* *Stowell*.—This Society granted 5000 Bibles and 2250 Testaments to the Island.

general circulation of the Scriptures in the Manks, have contributed to preserve the language in its improved and cultivated state; means seconded by the strong prejudice of the people in its favour. The influence of schools has been twofold: learning to read the Manks has been found subsidiary to the acquisition of English, by removing the first impediments to it, and by stimulating the desire as well as training the mind to the pursuit of more extended knowledge. The ampler opportunity of gratifying curiosity and enlarging the sphere of knowledge afforded by the English, and the still more cogent motive to its acquisition, supplied by the obvious advantage of it to all, and of the absolute necessity of it to many of the natives, will now tend powerfully to make it generally known, and render it the medium of judicial proceedings, though probably it will long be used in the services of the church, through the popular attachment to it, as the ancient medium of communicating religious instruction, and as perhaps better calculated to express the fervour of their devotional feelings.

The Manks language is said to be terse, energetic, and metaphorical: it has withstood the influence of successive foreign nations by which the Island was possessed; Danes or Norwegians, Scotch or English. Some of the names and patronymics are of Celtic origin, and similar to those of the

Scotch and Welsh. The names of the Manks, though Anglicized, were, with the exception of the Danish family of Christian, originally preceded, like those of the Irish Celts, to which the Manks were kindred, by the patronymic appellation of Mac. It has not been altogether dropped, and still partially adheres to some names: thus Quilliam is a corruption of Mac William; Quirk, Quayle, and other names beginning with Qu, may be probably traced to the same source. The mode of distinguishing people of the same name, is similar to that used by the Welsh. Thus, "John Bill Christian," is the familiar appellation bestowed on John the son of William Christian, who is thus distinguished by the addition of his own name to that of his father. It was similar to the Welsh mode of designation, thus, Sir Rhys ap Thomas, the son of Thomas Rice, and hence most of the Welsh surnames were originally Christian names. A corruption similar to that produced by the partial merging of the appellation Mac, occurs in Wales: thus ap Rice has been converted into Price, and ap Robert into Probert.

The Scotch were masters of the Isle of Man only during twenty years; and the English Monarchs, or their subjects to whom the lordship of the Isle was granted, satisfied with the legal sub-

mission of the natives, never interfered with their language, but acquiesced in its being the vehicle of judicial proceedings as it was the medium of general intercourse. The Manks, conscious of their weakness, and having no fastnesses to which they might fly in the event of unsuccessful resistance to their conquerors or rulers, observed the policy which necessity imposed, of peaceable acquiescence in the actual government, and to this policy the final preservation of their language, laws, and constitution, as well as the intrinsic excellence of the latter, must be attributed.

Sacheverel observes (when mentioning the poetic vision of Cowley, who supposed himself deploring, as he surveyed the surrounding kingdoms from the summit of Snaefell, the miseries and calamities of the civil wars), "that the poet did not reflect on the quiet and security of the place, which almost always follows poverty, since nothing is safe in this world that will bear the charge of its own ruin." The Isle of Man was, however, says the Earl of Derby in great danger of revolt during the Civil Wars, but owing, it must be observed, to local tyranny. The mild influence of the friendly and commercial intercourse of the natives of the Island with England, and their admission of so many to the naval or mercantile service, have gradually produced a change in their colloquial intercourse which

the efforts of remote authority could never have effected whilst the bar to international association remained.

The services are performed in Manks sometimes, even in parishes in which English is universally spoken: and in the north, where the Manks prevails, often three Sundays out of four, and more frequently in Manks, in the methodist chapels, than in the church. The intercourse with England and schools have introduced much English: it has now spread to the most sequestered districts of the Island: and I have heard it observed by an individual high at the bar, that it had become so general, that the plea of inability to speak it, urged by a witness, was usually attributed to an indisposition to give evidence, and a desire of offering it through the medium of an interpreter. I found, however, some who appeared totally ignorant of any language but their own; even allowing for the silence which apprehension of being ridiculed for their imperfect acquaintance with English might induce. The children in general have learned it in the schools.

The English spoken by the lower classes of the Manks is, on the whole, pure, and the pronunciation is free from provincial corruptions. As it has not acquired the settled form and consistency of an ancient dialect, but has been recently borrowed from the surrounding countries, its phrases,

and the tones of the speaker indicate a singular compound of the dialects of the north of England, of Scotland and Ireland. The words "indeed," "at all," "convenient," are used after the Irish fashion.

Though the Manks and Irish have descended from the same stock, venerate the same patron saint, and speak nearly the same language, they entertain a deep-rooted antipathy to each other. The feud between them, respecting the casting of the net, already adverted to, is but a symptom of it; and it is indicated by frequent broils, especially in the streets of Peel. It arises chiefly from religious differences, aggravated by the affinity of the two people, which invariably, when it does not produce closer union, occasions bitter animosity. The Irish despise the Manksmen, as having degenerated from the faith of their fathers: the latter, seeing the total neglect of religious practices by the Irish, so contrasted to their own scrupulous adherence to them, regard them as infidels, or to use the term applied to them by a Manks fisherman while conversing with me, as "not men," or as he explained it, as wicked and of no religion. The Irish give just ground for complaint, being extremely disorderly, and as much addicted, according to their unfortunate custom, to mutual conflicts, as to quarrels with the natives.

The lieutenant-governor, the bishop, and public

functionaries, are at the head of Manks society. Besides these, the persons of most weight in the Isle of Man are the landholders, of whom ten may be considered as principal, and the rest, proprietors of small estates or farms. The small number of the former accounts for their influence as a body being much less than might be expected from their monopoly of the legislative power.

But another class has gradually arisen, scarcely known till the natives renounced the ancient practice of pleading their own cause in the courts of law, which by the professional association of its members, by their activity and talents, and by their intercourse with the natives at the courts in the different parts of the Island, has acquired a degree of importance far beyond that to which their collective share in the wealth of the Island entitles them. The income of an advocate derived from his professional labours, seldom exceeds 500*l.* per annum, and many have difficulty in procuring a suitable living: the courts of law have, by engrossing the magisterial business of the Island, deprived the landholders of a jurisdiction which confers much importance on that class in England.

The attornies are generally of an inferior description to those of an English court; and with some exceptions, their inferiority is manifest in their appearance, manners, and even in their style

of pleading: I heard one of them attribute, in his speech in court, an inaccuracy in the statement of an opponent to the pleasure which he had felt "at getting his sister married;" and he thought the joke so happy that he again repeated it.

The poverty of the clergy deprives them of that rank in society which their order enjoys in England, and places them more on a level, in relation to the rest of the community with those of Scotland. The bishop and his Archdeacon, who also holds the office of vicar-general: the other being held by a layman, are the only two representatives of the church who possess any weight or are known, except by reputation, beyond the precincts of their own parishes.

As few of the clergy can aspire to more than a decent subsistence, they are, as a body, wholly debarred by poverty from intercourse with the wealthier part of the community. Their manners are often superior to those of the low grade of society from which they are frequently raised, though their education has been confined to a school and they have not enjoyed the advantage of college associations, but their marriages being generally in a line beneath the rank of gentry, their wives are usually incapable of bearing their part in better society, and thus prevent the extension of their acquaintance and usefulness.

The medical practitioners are few, and their incomes small, far less than those of the lawyers. And as the island takes little share in general trade, the mercantile part of the community is very unimportant, and possessed of little wealth. An income of 500*l.* per annum is considered handsome in Douglas. Strangers, whether purchasers of land, or holders of farms, or residing in the town or neighbourhood of Douglas form a considerable portion of the upper classes in the Island. They are usually attracted to the spot by the great cheapness of provisions of all kinds: and Douglas is thronged with half-pay officers both military and naval, who have formed an United Service Club, as a rallying-point to their society.

Of the cheapness of provisions, the following are samples. The price of excellent meat in Douglas was 4½*d.* to 6*d.* per pound; of a fine cod, 1*s.*—of a turbot, 8*s.* A gentleman residing near Castletown, bought, on the morning of my visit to him, sheep of considerable weight, for 5*s.* 6*d.* each. Tea is from 4*s.* to 6*s.* per pound: refined sugar 8*d.* per pound.

As the residence of the governor, and the circumstance of the superior courts being held at Castletown, confer on that town the metropolitan dignity, Castle Rushen is the principal rendezvous of the official society. But the more agreeable situation of Douglas, the superior security of its bay, its central position, and other advantages, have drawn

the gentry and strangers to its neighbourhood, and made it a resort for sea-bathing and public amusements.

The habits of the upper classes of society are similar to those of the English gentry, excepting some who observe the primitive custom of dining at one o'clock, even when they give large entertainments and prolong them to a late hour in the evening. Their amusements are social: public assemblies are held in Douglas, but are chiefly frequented by the townspeople and strangers: theatrical amusements, racing and hunting are almost unknown, and shooting is little pursued in an island where there are no covers for the preservation of game, and the moors yield neither grouse nor deer.

The present lieutenant-governor is Colonel Smelt, a tall, fresh-looking gentleman, of eighty-two years of age, of very dignified deportment, unaffectedly courteous in his manners, and agreeable in his conversation. He receives from government a salary of 1000*l.* per annum, besides his apartments in Castle Rushen, where he permanently resides. The Duke of Athol, the governor, pays him an annual visit. Their meeting is personally very friendly, but officially, it is said, very much otherwise, as might be naturally expected from the high spirit and advanced years of these rival functionaries*.

* The duke and his lieutenant-governor ended their days about the same time.

To the hospitality of the lower classes of the Manks, I have adverted in terms of well-merited commendation; to that of the upper, my short stay in the Island enables me to bear personal and hearty testimony. Though a stranger, even to their names, before I visited their Island, the introduction of the worthy Bishop, whose authority and personal character are regarded with primitive feelings of esteem and respect, secured me, in all parts of his little diocese, a kind and cordial reception.

CHAPTER XXI.

AILSA CRAG, LOCH LOMOND, LUSS, GARELOCH,
LOCH LONG, GLENCROE, KILMORACH, SCAVA-
GOYLE FOREST.

THE view of the Island from Ramsay Bay, where I embarked for Scotland, surpasses any other in its whole circuit in beauty and variety. The coast forms a semicircular range, flanked by the bold precipices of Maughold Head to south, and by red cliffs, of much inferior height, to north. At the Point of Aire, a low and sandy headland, a light-house is erected. Opposite is the bold and lofty Mull of Galloway, terminating abruptly in gray cliffs, on which a light-house is now building. The character of the coast is the same for many miles. Dunman's Head, conspicuous for its height, prominence, and rugged aspect, shelters the small harbour of Port Nessock, which at high water admits large vessels. From this headland to Port Patrick, is a line of rough, but less elevated cliffs, above which appears a bleak country, consisting of moors and pastures, interspersed with tracts of cultivation, but destitute of trees. Nothing but necessity could have induced the selection of Port Patrick as a packet-station, a little creek, apparently scooped artificially out of the inhospitable coast, and defended by a

pier, dangerous to the approach, and accessible only at high water. On Corsil point, a lighthouse marks the entrance of the noble harbour of Loch Ryan, which being narrow and deep, is navigated often with difficulty, but affords an excellent shelter for vessels of any size.

We reached Ailsa Crag at dusk. The flight of the sea-fowl, consisting of Solan geese, gulls, and other birds, would alone have guided our course, in the absence of better direction: flocks of them rose from the water as we advanced, or passed rapidly over our heads, hastening towards their vast and sequestered dormitory,—a stupendous double-headed pile of chalky basaltic cliffs. Their shrill cry, as they were nestling in the crevices and on the ledges of the cliffs, was not without its peculiar sublimity; to which the indistinct and sombre grandeur of the lofty precipices from which it proceeded, contributed; recalling to recollection Tasso's description of the sounds issuing from the portal of hell,—

“E fischiar Idre, e sibilare Pitoni,”

and in full accordance with the association suggested was the sudden and simultaneous flight of the birds, which took place when the usual salute was fired from a small carronade, piercing the gloom like a host of spirits set free from their prison, and filling the air with their wild and plaintive shrieks.

The impression produced by the scenery of the Highlands of Scotland is heightened much by the grandeur of the *approaches* to these romantic regions: the capacious and magnificent estuaries which lead to Edinburgh on one side, and to Glasgow on the other, being respectively defended by a stupendous rock, placed in the position to which it has been cast by nature, as if

“To sentinel enchanted land.”

No wonder that in a superstitious age their existence should have been ascribed to magic.

The immediate ingress to the Highlands is no less dignified by the Castle-crag of Dumbarton, whose base is washed by the waters of the Leven flowing directly from Loch Lomond, the paragon of the Scottish lakes. In some of the details of its scenery, in the exquisite fret-work of its islands, wrought out by the water into all the fantastic forms of rural architecture, and the wild luxuriance of the evergreens by which they are overgrown, Killarney is unrivalled: but no British lake can vie with Loch Lomond in extent, the combined characteristics of the diversity of its outlines, the grouping of its islands, promontories and mountains, and of the mingled softness and sternness, beauty and sublimity, of its landscapes. It wants only the embellishment of wood, which is unfortunately cut down for bark just as it begins to display the richness of its foliage.

The shores of this lake, within less than a century the scene of contending clans and the retreat of outlaws, are now brought, by the power of steam, within a day's jaunt of the merchants of Glasgow; whilst their friends from Liverpool may accompany them, seeing the coast of Man, the Clyde, and Glasgow besides, and return to their counting-houses for the sum of 5*l*. The increase of enjoyment, no less beneficial to the mind than to the body, which steam has supplied to the inhabitants of our smoky towns, is incalculable. May it not have contributed also to the restlessness and excitability, which pervade all classes in the present day, by enlarging the sphere of locomotion and generating a *moral momentum*, unchecked by the mechanism which arrests the progress of the vessel?

The two principal proprietors of the banks of Loch Lomond are Sir James Colquhoun, to whom nearly the whole of the western, the northern, and part of the eastern shores belong; and the Duke of Montrose, whose estate on the eastern is divided from Sir James's by a small burn. Sir James has made material additions to his property by purchases, and he has recently enlarged it by the recovery of a small but beautifully-situated house, together with the land attached to it, which had been separated from his estate, having been assigned to a younger son of an ancestor, during 530 years, and possessed by this branch of his

family during this long and stormy period. Sir James is representative of one of the oldest branches of the clan Colquhoun, of which Sir Ludovic is chief.

The Galla hill, on which his ancestors formerly executed criminals, is still pointed out. Rosdoe, his residence, is happily placed near the lake side, in a park adorned with timber-trees, among which may be seen a remarkable oak, consisting of six distinct trunks springing from the same root.

On the Deer Island, Sir James's grandfather held a conference with the celebrated Rob Roy, at the proposition of the latter; who in consequence agreed to abstain from committing any depredations on Sir James's property, and to exonerate him from the necessity of maintaining a guard;—an engagement in strict accordance with the well-known policy practised by these marauders, of making treaties with some powerful chief, which they religiously observed, in order that they might safely plunder others without endangering themselves by provoking their enemies to a general confederacy. Rob Roy, in conformity to this plan of proceeding, whilst he adroitly disarmed the Colquhouns, levied his contributions freely on the Grahams. A copy of the challenge, sent by Rob Roy to the Duke of Montrose, is in the possession of the present minister of Luss.

The Deer Island has been unfortunately stripped

of the fine yew which once covered it, and supplied a contrast in colouring to the brighter foliage which adorns the other islands. A few trees have been spared, scorched, and reddened by the conflagration which consumed the rest. Many deer are kept on it: and those animals, as if aware of the inability of the island to furnish pasture for a greater number, never suffer an intruder from the neighbouring shore, either male or female, to tarry among them.

In a sheltered nook on the south side of the island, resides the old forester, 78 years of age, who has served Sir James, his father, and grandfather, in that capacity. He was a man of some education, and when young, and waiting at his master's table, corrected the company on a point of history on which some discussion had arisen. I have already quoted his vindication of the old superstitions. He enumerated, but with the usual apprehension of the incredulity and ridicule of his hearers, instances of second sight, and stood out manfully for the existence of fairies, pointing out a conical hill, near the lake, as having been inhabited by those beings, who appear to have been infected with the marauding spirit prevalent in the neighbourhood, and to have committed frequent depredations on the surrounding country, carrying off women with child to serve as nurses, and children to boot, probably to supply the

absence of heirs. He confirmed his tale by the assurance that he had known a woman whose shoulder had been dislocated in an attempt of a man to rescue her from the clutch of one of these monsters.

This old forester has not been without peculiar inducement to preserve the mystic awe which once invested the islands of Loch Lomond. Anciently the haunts of outlaws, they became afterwards the retreat of smugglers who found them particularly well adapted to the practice of illicit distillation; but who have since been banished to the mountains between this lake and Loch Lomond. And till within few years these islands were appropriated to a very different purpose; serving as asylums for persons of both sexes, of the higher and middling classes, who repaired to them either voluntarily or compelled by their relations, to shun the world, or to avoid the temptations to drinking, which they found irresistible in society, or on other pretexts. These recluses lodged at the cottages of the foresters, and lived together on the plan of a boarding-house. The present sheriff of Dumbartonshire, brother to Sir James Colquhoun, having observed these inmates in safe custody of our old forester, and ascertained that some of them were detained in unwilling exile, rescued them from their captivity, and excited his enmity, as he derived a considerable income from the money which they paid him. One

of them was a lady of very respectable circumstances, whom her husband had placed under this restraint. The old forester asked emphatically, when required to surrender up his prisoners, "What new law is this that is brought into the country?" I found, in two of the Hebrides, voluntary exiles, who had retired to these sequestered islands for the purpose of subduing habits of drunkenness, by shunning the temptations of society.

From a rocky and well-wooded hill on Tavanach Island, no less than thirty-two of the Islands of Loch Lomond may be reckoned. A snug farm-house in a delicious situation, on this island, is tenanted by a Macfarlane, who points out on his chimney-piece the armorial bearings of the chief of his clan, surmounted by the motto, with the gathering cry of Loch Sloy beneath it. This island was bought of the Macfarlanes, together with a great part of their estate, by Sir James Colquhoun, and the clan has now become nearly extinct.

On Sunday we attended Divine service at Luss church, and heard a good sermon from the pulpit which once resounded with the splendid eloquence of Maclaurin. It was divided, according to custom, into two parts, to allow those who can only attend a single service the opportunity of so doing; but nearly the whole of the congregation remained during both services. There is an old ruined church and cemetery which are feued by lessees on

the original terms granted by Sir J. Colquhoun's predecessor to the church, a reservation to the landlord of pasture for three geese. According to the custom of Scotland, a transfer of property, held of a superior, must receive from him a nominal charter of confirmation. The tenure is sometimes held by the annual payment of a pound of pepper, a *bonâ fide* pepper-corn rent.

Gaelic was within few years spoken in Luss, and sermons were preached in this language. The boundary-line between the Lowland and Highland districts, which separates this from the next parish south of it, and consequently includes it in the latter division, is clearly marked by the different degrees of civilization, visible on either side of it. The cottages are poor structures, sometimes without chimnies. Each cottager possesses a cow, which grazes with the common herd.

Of the old hovels which abounded in these parts, the Duke of Montrose has destroyed many which studded the rugged eastern shore of the lake. The inhabitants were said to be much attached to their miserable dwellings. I was never more struck with the influence of the vicinity of a town in improving the habits of a peasantry, than in a wild and dreary part of the adjacent county of Dumbartonshire, distant four miles from Glasgow. Whilst the cottages on the Highland shores of Loch Lomond were such as I have described, those in that

neighbourhood were neatly built of stone and thatched, whitewashed, furnished with grates, chimnies, drawers, and other articles of furniture: their beds placed in recesses; and though the floor was of earth, they were kept perfectly clean: They belonged to common labourers. The population of Luss amounts to 1000: the vice of drinking prevails among them, but they appear to be little infected with the epidemical moral distemper of the Low Countries, as very few illegitimate children are born here: there being but six now in this parish.

The system of assessment for the maintenance of the poor, which has pervaded the Lowlands of Scotland, is gradually spreading into the Highlands. It has reached this part of the country. When collections have been found insufficient, application is made to the heritors; and when this mode of raising the necessary sum is inadequate, the assessment is enforced*. The heritors

* The assessments in Scotland were unknown till the Reformation. In 1700, the system was introduced into only three parishes: in the present century it has spread rapidly from the English borders.—(*Edinburgh Review*.) In the county of Fife, the whole annual sum for the support of the poor in its country parishes was, in 1817, far less than 40*l.*, and often 20*l.* to each 1000 of its population. In some parishes in Roxburghshire, in which during half a century legal assessments had prevailed, the expense of the maintenance of the poor increased tenfold: in one of them the whole sum raised

in the neighbourhood of Glasgow will not contribute to the poor-funds, alleging the frequency of assessments in excuse for their refusal. The objection to the practice of church collections, if not

being above 200*l.* for each 1000. In a parish near Edinburgh, the annual charge increased from 50*l.* to 400*l.*—(*Edinburgh Review*.) These are instances of the gradual progress of the assessments. By a decision of the Court of Session in 1823, persons acquire legal claim by an industrious residence in a parish during three years, unless able-bodied. But if a near relation, son, or parent, is able to support the applicant, the Kirk Session may bring an action against him to compel him to do so.

Dr. Chalmers's attempt, not only to arrest the progress of assessment in Scotland, but to extirpate it in England, in order to afford full developement to the moral energy and charity of the human heart, on which he relied as an effectual substitute, has failed, notwithstanding the remarkable success of his endeavours to effect the change in his own parish in Glasgow. Yet his writings and practical experience, on the subject, have much contributed to awaken the public mind to the evils of the old English system of poor-laws, and point out the humanity of rectifying it: whilst his system of district visiting, by the subdivision of each parish into sections, and the assignment to each of a separate visitor, his main instrument for imparting efficacy to the principle to which he appealed, has gradually, and most beneficially pervaded our metropolis and large towns. The recent modification of the English system of poor-laws will probably ensure much of the good which Dr. Chalmers contemplated, by withholding inducements to indolence and vice, without incurring the great evils which would have resulted from the entire cessation of legal relief.

The introduction and progress of the assessment have been more recent in Campbeltown in Argyleshire. Prior to

followed by direct application to the heritors, or by assessments is, that the support of the poor devolves wholly on those who attend church.

Lady Colquhoun has a Sunday-school, and also a day-school for girls, superintended by a mistress, who was sent to Edinburgh for the purpose of being regularly trained for the situation. The girls show great aptitude for instruction, and a particular eagerness for learning sewing, a branch of industry which the more indolent females of the remote Highlands and Islands acquire reluctantly.

The road to Hellensburg passes through Glen Fruin, a vale of bloody recollections,—scene of the massacre of the Colquhouns, for which deed the Macgregors were outlawed; and the ruined castle of Banachra, in which an ancestor of Sir James Colquhoun was murdered. Hellensburg, now a popular watering-place on the bank of the Clyde, was built by Sir James Colquhoun's father: its aspect gives it the preference, in point of situation, to Gourock or Port-Glasgow. The line of villas has extended gradually to the head of Gareloch; and Sir James encourages building both here and on the shores of Loch Long. The steam-boat has provided the citizens of Glasgow with Richmonds

February 1832, there was none for the parochial poor: it commenced at the period of the cholera. In the first year it amounted to 400*l.*, and increased in the following to 550*l.*—(*Local Reports of Commissioners of Municipal Corporations in Scotland.*)

and Twickenhams in the midst of the wildest scenery.

Roseneath, the Duke of Argyle's, is beautifully situated between the Clyde and Gareloch, and contains some interesting family-pictures; and opposite to it, is Ardincapel, the residence of Sir J. Campbell.

From a hill on the shore of Gareloch, I enjoyed a splendid prospect embracing the lake itself, the woody promontory of Roseneath, Greenock, the Clyde, the opposite heights of Bute, and Ayrshire, Arran and Ailsa terminating the long perspective; and on the north side, Loch Long divided into two branches, by the Duke of Argyle's right rugged bowling-green. In point of savage and sequestered grandeur, Loch Long approaches more nearly to Loch Coruisk, in Sky, than any part of Loch Lomond, whilst its softer scenes may challenge comparison with those of lakes of more favoured latitudes. Its left bank forms the boundary of Sir James Colquhoun's estate. We were pressed by our guide to visit the smugglers who inhabit the wild mountainous district between the two lakes, being assured by him that they would receive us with cordial hospitality, and the best fare which they could command: but the night was too far advanced to admit of such an adventure. These people, worthy of the descendants of outlaws, actually marched through Dumbarton six

years ago, escorting a cargo of spirits, preceded by a piper, and bidding defiance to the Excisemen, whose force was not sufficient to oppose them.

The majestic Cobler guards the entrance of Glencroe. This famous pass forms a gradual ascent for several miles. Though inferior to Glencoe, with which it is sometimes compared, it affords greater extent and variety of scenery, which may be observed of the descent from the highest point on both sides, whilst the ascent of Glencoe opens only on the dismal moor of Rannoch.

A dreary country separates Inverary from the head of Loch Awe. The farm-houses and cottages are thatched with straw, beneath which poles are placed horizontally on rafters, forming the immediate covering of the apartment. They are perfectly japanned by smoke. One farm-house consisted of two apartments, one of which was furnished with a fire-place, used only on special occasions. The other was the usual dwelling-place of the family: the fire was burning on the centre of the floor, and the smoke had no vent but through a small aperture in the roof, to which it worked its way, spreading itself through the whole dwelling. On the window-shelf of the latter apartment, lay some books, all of which, except Johnson's *Dictionary*, were on religious subjects; and among them five Bibles or Testaments, three English and two Gaelic, of different

editions, but without notes. The abundance of copies afforded pleasing indication of the practice of assembling the family daily for prayer and reading the Scriptures. Two cottages which I entered were miserable hovels; but cheerfulness and contentment reigned within. The wages of the labourers here, amounted to 1s. 8d. per day.

A ridge of about 2000 feet, above the sea, overlooks a wild region dotted with lakes, commanding a fine view of the mountains of Glencroe, Ben Cruachan and the islands from Jura to Mull spread out as in a map. A vast diversity of picturesque scenery, produced by these islands, Rachlin, and the coast of Ireland, rewards the toilsome survey of the coast of Argyleshire. At the extremity of the promontory enclosing Loch Scourie, I found the ancient and very interesting cemetery of Kilmorach. My attention was first attracted to it by a high cross erected on a pedestal, in excellent preservation, exhibiting in *alto relievo* an engraving, on one side, of Christ crucified between two thieves, and, on the other, various devices. There was a representation, on one side of the leg, of a sword, and a chain, and on the other, of a deer caught by three dogs, and an armed warrior beneath: under these figures is an inscription, which my boatman, who afterwards turned out to be the village schoolmaster, sent to Edinburgh; but the literati could not interpret

its meaning. The chapel and surrounding cemetery contain several half-buried monuments, finely sculptured, surmounted with recumbent figures of armed warriors, priests, and women; representations of galleys, swords, chains, and other emblematical objects. One large slab, in the corner of which was scooped out a cavity, obviously used for the reception of holy water, exhibited a chief on horseback. The little injury, which these interesting but little-known remnants of the feudal and popish ages of Scotland, have suffered, is far less than that of the nearly obliterated tombs at Iona. The spot has not been described, I believe, by any professed tourist. The monuments appear, from the galleys and other peculiar devices, to have belonged to the Macdonalds.

The common notion of the lower classes in these regions respecting the origin of their ancient sepulchral monuments is, that they were brought from Iona. It is very probable that the sculptors, by whom they were executed, may have formed part of the establishment of that sacred monastery.

My boatman, who conveyed me to the coast, was very intelligent and well-informed, and somewhat bookish. He superintended one of the four parish schools of St. Knapdale, one being stationed in each of the four districts into which the parish is divided, and eked out his income by fishing during

the holidays, for which purpose he kept his boat*. His charges were moderate; 2s. per quarter for reading, writing, and arithmetic, though for the latter he was entitled to 5s., and 1*l.* 1s. the course for teaching book-keeping. He instructs the children both in English and Gaelic, but finds that they acquire a knowledge of both languages more readily by commencing with English, as being the easier of the two; and makes them practise translating from one to the other. He complained of the boys forgetting their winter's instruction during the summer and autumn, in which they were employed in the fields or the fishery. In this district people, he said, were formerly well supplied with Bibles, and the practice of family prayers was very common, and enforced by the exhortations of the minister and elders. The nearest church was eight miles distant from Kilmorach. The peasantry are on the whole free from poverty, but now suffering

* This plan of assigning several schools to a parish, is permitted by the statute; but its benefit is questioned by the General Assembly, as the salaries of the schoolmasters are reduced by it. In the Synod of Argyle, there are eleven parishes, having amongst them no less than thirty-eight parish-schools; and the average emoluments of each of the teachers, both from salary and school-pay, is not more than 29*l.* a-year, without the benefit of the usual accommodation, which in this arrangement is not provided for him by law.—*General Assembly's Educational Statistics for 1833.*

from want of employment. The farmers are rich and thriving. A considerable emigration from this part of the coast took place last year, consisting chiefly of persons of property; one of those who quitted his native soil being possessed of 1000*l*. My learned boatman questioned me as to my name, residence, object in travelling, and whether I was acquainted with his uncle, a printer in London. He informed me that his own name was Fisher, and that his brother was now principal of Jephson College, in America. The Highlanders expect a return for the information with which they supply travellers; and the true mode of rendering them communicative is, to anticipate their inquiries, and thus to prevent the obvious restlessness and reserve, which they show, till they have satisfied themselves, either by a shrewd conjecture, or by the stranger's avowal of his station in life, and purpose in travelling. Nor will frankness always lull the inquisitiveness of this cautious people, or prevent their sometimes warily endeavouring to ascertain whether they have been deceived.

We landed about dusk on the coast. The walk to Tarbert requires several hours, crossing the dreary Scavagoyle Forest, and over a pass 2000 feet high. The schoolmaster, with true Highland promptitude, finding that no guide was to be met with, instantly offered his services.

The track was exceedingly rough and boggy. The rising moon lighted up at the highest point of the pass two cairns, large heaps of stones raised on the spot, which have been gradually much increased, by the practice of the people, when carrying a corpse from the western coast to the cemetery at Tarbert, of resting on this spot for refreshment, and adding fresh materials to the pile. They originally marked the graves of some Macdonalds, or Macleans, slain here in a hostile encounter. This tract was formerly much used by illicit traders: and a spot was shown to me on the bank of a torrent, where, five years ago, one of them, seized with a sudden sickness, died, before his brother who accompanied him could procure relief. The survivor did not abandon the vocation in which his brother had perished.

The Scavagoyle Forest was purchased of the late Duke of Argyle by Mr. Campbell of Stonefield. The people enjoyed the ancient right of common upon it, and sent their cattle from places twenty or thirty miles distant, to graze upon it, paying 1s. 6d. to the man employed to catch them. Many lived on the borders of it, paying little or no rent, keeping a few cattle, and subsisting entirely on the meat and milk which they yielded, seldom tasting bread or vegetables. There was at that time not a single house in the interior of the forest. About fifty years ago, Captain Stuart, who now

resides at Campbeltown, first turned a few sheep upon it; and this experiment proved the commencement of the system of sheep-farming here, which has been very profitable, and augmented to an extraordinary extent the value not only of the forest itself, but of the contiguous arable tracts. The forest is now covered with sheep and other cattle, but still is so inhospitable a region, that but one shepherd dwells on the interior of it. Mr. Campbell of Stonefield, has enhanced the value of his property much by draining. On a farm on which there were but forty cattle formerly, there are now 150; and the number of sheep on it have been doubled, and are, notwithstanding, unable to keep down the grass. The forest is divided into extensive farms, the tenant requiring 4000*l.* capital to stock his farm. I entered the house of one of them who possessed 6,000 sheep, renting part of the forest on a lease of nineteen years: it consisted but of two small apartments on each side of a door. The poor tenants, who were removed from the skirts of the forest, were all provided for on portions of subdivided farms, and by the fishery. No persons reside in this neighbourhood unless possessed of land: the Crofters are tenants at will, and are neglectful of their unenclosed allotments. Neither rye-grass nor clover are sown on the pastures: but the land, though still inadequately cultivated, has been applied to with diligence and success,

since the tenants were deprived of their former desultory mode of gaining their subsistence. An old man assured me that the farm (of which his father held one-fifth), which then paid 20*l.* rent, now yielded 60*l.* Applications for parochial relief are very rare, being deemed unprofitable as well as discreditable: the children assist their parents in paying their rent.

Mr. Campbell of Stonefield, who resides in Cantyre, is the great proprietor of this part of the country. His estate comprises from 20,000 to 30,000 acres, extending along the coast from its northern boundary some miles north of east Tarbert, nearly to Skipness Point, including the two Tarberts. It is held of the Duke of Argyle, from whom it was purchased, on the condition of supplying his Grace with a six-oared galley to carry him to the low countries*.

* This species of contract is technically called, in the language of the Scottish law, an illusory feu, and is accompanied with a clause limiting the obligation *modo si petatur*.

CHAPTER XXII.

ISLA, AGRICULTURE, FARMS AND COTTAGES, TOWN AND VILLAGES, FISHERY, MANUFACTURES OF THE HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS, MORAL AND RELIGIOUS IMPROVEMENT, CEMETERIES.

A FINE steam-vessel runs from Tarbert to Isla, Mull, Sky, and other Islands. Mr. Campbell, of Isla, Mr. Walter Campbell, of Sunderland, in the same island, and Lord Macdonald, contributed to support it, but are unfortunately not indemnified for their outlay. The advantage, which these Islands derive from the facilitated communication with the mainland, in some degree counterbalances the loss: it should be regarded in a similar light with the expenditure bestowed on roads, which, though burdensome to the proprietors, has proved, in other respects, eminently beneficial. This vessel reaches Portaskig, in Isla, in four hours: its accommodation and provender were fully put to the test when we reached that port, for landing was rendered impracticable by the weather, and the vessel was compelled to ride out a heavy gale, safely moored in smooth water in the Sound of Isla. Though the passengers were numerous, we found comfortable berths, and ample

provisions. The inn, little village, and pier of Portaskig, are prettily situated in a well-wooded cove. The general aspect of Isla is dreary enough: the western coast is not deficient in grandeur in particular parts; and the eastern being high, forming the boundary of a mountain-range, and wooded to the water's edge, has some beauty. Loch Indal Bay almost bisects the island. It is land-locked, and affords good anchorage in deep water, but is much exposed to the north-west wind, which sweeping the Lowland country in that direction, endangers vessels, if their cables are not sound.

A parliamentary road has been formed in the island: the other roads in the island are made and kept in repair by statute labour, which every man is bound to provide for, six days in the year, or pay a fine in the shape of wages to a substitute. The former alternative is almost invariably preferred, and the work is well done. Money is altogether paid in lieu of these services in the Lowlands.

By far the larger part of the island belongs to Mr. Campbell, whose grandfather, of Stonefield, in Renfrewshire, purchased it, together with Jura and Scarba, for the sum of 10,000*l.*, subject to a high feu duty. The two latter islands, though much the less valuable part of the estate, have been since sold for a larger sum than that paid originally for

the whole. The laird of Jura is bound by the condition of paying an annual tribute of some roe-deer and oysters to Mr. Campbell. Mr. Campbell's spacious and hospitable mansion stands amidst rising plantations, on the shore of Lochindal. Sunderland, the residence of Mr. Walter Campbell, uncle of Isla, is on an eminence overlooking the same bay, surrounded with gardens and wind-swept plantations.

The produce of this island has been greatly augmented by the partial introduction of the Lowland system of cultivation, to which its soil and locality are well-adapted. The thrashing-machine and iron plough have been introduced: but the farmers generally prefer one of inferior description: partly from predilection to ancient custom, and partly as it is more easily repaired, and is heavier; and its handles, being longer, allow more purchase. The old-fashioned kiln for drying corn, in this and the neighbouring islands, is of simple construction: a turf-built cone, covering a hole dug in the ground, the sides of which are walled with stones, admitting below an aperture, like that in a kiln. The hole is covered with layers of wood and twigs, on which is placed a stone; and in this the grain is deposited for the purpose of being dried, after being thrashed in the small barn. The instrument used for this latter purpose is metallic. These people are advanced beyond the Irish, who thrash their grain on

the ground, and send it to market mixed with dirt and stones. The practice of drying the grain in kilns, common to the ruder Highland farmers, and the Irish, is very injurious to the grain, which loses, by the rapidity of the process, some portion of its nutritious quality. To the combined effect of these two parts of the process, the comparatively low price of the Irish potato-oat, which is not inferior to the Scottish, and yet is sold in the English market for much less, is mainly owing.

The annual importation of corn, fourteen years ago, amounted to 1200*l.*, whereas it is now supposed that Isla could supply with grain, for food, the whole western Highlands and Islands. The value of the estate of Sunderland, chiefly peat-moss, which the sea is supposed formerly to have covered, when Mr. Walter Campbell obtained possession of it, about the same period, has been tripled. He drained the peat-moss at the cost of one shilling per acre, ploughed it, and sprinkled sea-sand on it, and with the aid of lime and seaweed, which is abundant, brought it to yield both grain and excellent pasture. The expense of cultivating an acre costs him 4*l.*, and yields from seven to ten returns of white crops with fallows: the value of the first year's produce being 5*l.*

More oats are grown than suffice for the consumption of the people, and they are consequently exported: the kind raised is the white potato-oat.

The common wild black oat must be sought further northward, in Sky and the remoter Hebrides. It is found a heating diet for horses.

Much barley is also raised, but a great deal is imported from Jura, Colonsay, and Cantyre, to supply the distilleries recently established in the island, amounting now to fourteen*. The spirit distilled is sent principally to Glasgow. Some wheat has been sown, but with little success.

The harvest usually begins in Isla about a fortnight later than in England,—about the 18th of August. One of the chief exports is black cattle, which are sent, in large quantities, to Dumbarton Fair, and thence to England. Mr. Walter Campbell has introduced bulls from Sky, and much improved the breed.

The gates are of the same sort as those used on the mainland, consisting of two or three horizontal poles affixed to a post, on the top of which is placed one crossing the others diagonally. They are usually loose, flying different ways, and are apt to catch and entangle the legs. Sheep are almost exclusively confined to the hills, and are just sufficient for domestic consumption. Some Tíree ponies have been imported occasionally by Mr. Campbell. Mr. Walter Campbell has a beautiful well-bred little animal, very strong and active, of a coal-black colour, a cross between a Tíree mare, and a horse

* See *Appendix*, Note V.

from another island. The farmers in Isla are chiefly natives of the island, or from the adjacent countries: there are among them few Lowlanders.

The leases are for a term of nineteen years, and about to expire, when the rents, which have been too low, will yield Mr. Campbell a material increase of income, and the improvement of system will be accelerated. For in general it has hitherto advanced little beyond its primitive state. The system of runrig prevails still in Isla: much of the land on the frequented shore of Lochindal is held under this tenure; the divisions are frequently marked only by a row of weeds: the singular custom still prevails of mutually exchanging the lots once in three years, and notwithstanding, they are sometimes well cultivated.

In the immediate neighbourhood of the principal town of the island, the cottagers hold their arable land after this fashion: separated by strips of grass called marches, and their cattle graze promiscuously in the park or common land above. These are inferior to those of the regular farmers, being both worse fed and worse tended. The practice of subletting is also retained, producing its usual mischievous effects.

Of farm-houses and cottages Isla affords an infinite variety. Some of the farm-houses are very respectable: those of Mr. W. Campbell are in the quadrangular form. An extraordinary speci-

men of a farm-house, which I found on the west-coast, merits a particular description. It consisted of a single but large apartment, without a loft. The vent for the smoke was an aperture in the wall, at a height of some feet above the fire, apparently knocked out without reference to shape: and capable, from its size, of admitting a gale of wind. A bed was placed at each corner of the apartment; and chests, and various utensils, were scattered about the floor, mingled with as many sheep as the place would contain, lying, their feet tied together, whilst a girl was shearing them as fast as she could. An old woman sat near the fire; and in front of it stood a tall, gaunt-looking female, attending to the boiling of a pot, clad in a blue jacket and red petticoat, a pipe in her mouth, looking, and with a loud voice uttering, apparent defiance, whilst she in reality afforded me a welcome to a seat. I visited some other poor hovels, and found among the inmates only two who could speak English: they had a singularly wild appearance, and stared at me like savages.

Mr. Campbell of Isla has exerted himself in improving the cottages. Some under Lady Eleanor Campbell's superintendence are supplied with gardens. The cottages on Mr. W. Campbell's estate were erected by himself: they are of stone and mortar, slated, and supplied with chimnies and fire-places, in the English manner,

with the byre or cow-house detached. The peat is stacked outside, being never housed in this island. On the mainland it is sometimes seen stored in the loft under the roof, where it is less abundant, and consequently more cautiously preserved. The inmates show a tendency to their ancient habits, but the vigilant care of the landlord counteracts it. Immediately contiguous to these may be seen, on the next farm, the most wretched effects of subletting, in an extensive hamlet consisting of hovels, or rather shapeless tumuli of sod and stone. They contain a single apartment furnished with a door on each side, an important point in the construction of a Highland cottage, to allow of ingress and egress on the side not exposed to the wind: with a hole in the roof, which, in several, served for window, as well as chimney, whilst others were furnished with a single pane in a side-aperture. To some was attached a rudely-constructed byre: but most of them shared their dwellings with their cattle, separated by no other partition than by some stone flags. I saw no cottages on the mainland so wretched as these. Each occupant pays 3*l.* or 4*l.* rent for his cottage and for a piece of land attached to it, to the neighbouring farmer, by whom it is sublet, himself and his family being further bound by the condition of working for the farmer, whensoever called upon to gather in his peat or his harvest. They are in a state little better than that

of serfs, receiving little or no wages, and get little work but that with which the farmer supplies them, and consequently live and multiply in abject poverty. Yet, pinched as they are, they send their children to school, paying from 2s. to 3s. per quarter, and possess Bibles*.

The only town in the island which deserves the name is Bowmore; well-furnished with shops and a pier. But the attention is chiefly directed from this little place by the showy village called Port Charlotte, which Mr. Campbell has erected on the opposite shore of the bay, besides another on the

* It is scarcely credible to what an extent this wretched system of sub-letting formerly prevailed in the Highlands and Islands. Mr. Walker thus describes it in his *Economical History of the Hebrides*. The period to which he refers is between 1761 and 1786.—“A farm of 30*l.* per annum, will have ten such sub-tenants on it: each of these has a family. The tacksman, besides his wife and children, has eight men servants, six women, and two boys. *The whole amounts to about seventy-one persons.* Such a number of people, living by agriculture upon so small a property, is not to be found elsewhere. It appeared, in general, that there was a sub-tenant for about every 4*l.* of rent paid by a tacksman, or tenant, the common population being a sub-tenant for every 50*s.* worth of land rented by the farmer. All the sub-tenants, who are the great body of the people in the Highlands, are tenants at will, of the tacksman or farmer, and are therefore in a state of subjection, unreasonable and unprofitable both to themselves and their superiors. Their subjection to the tacksman or farmer, on whose ground they live, leaves them just time sufficient to support themselves and their

western coast, called Port Eleanor. The houses of these villages are built with two stories and a loft, on the scale of the manses of the clergy, and consequently look down on the lowly habitations of the farmers. The inducement to occupy them has been a grant of four acres; and it has been to a considerable extent successful.

This experiment cannot, however, be expected to prosper. The quality of land, particularly in the neighbourhood of Port Charlotte, which is very productive, will be good enough to render the occupiers independent of other employment, and thus to convert them into small farmers, *i. e.* to restore the old system, which, happily for Scotland, is becoming gradually exploded. The very fertility of the soil is regarded as unfavourable to the industry

families in life. The tacksman, generally, has one day in the week of the sub-tenant's labour the year round, which, with the spring and harvest work, and other occasions, will amount to more than one-third of his whole annual labours. There can be no doubt but that the tacksman, holding a large farm, would find it far more profitable to have it managed by regular hired servants, than by the reluctant and careless labour of sub-tenants, forced from their own occupations."

Such is the system which has been gradually weeded out of the greater part of Scotland by the exertions of the landlord. Such is, in part, the system by which Ireland has been hitherto fearfully oppressed. Symptoms of its extirpation are manifest; and from the improvement of the tenures, combined with an amended system of poor-laws, a new era may arise, under Providence, in the moral as well as economical history of that portion of the kingdom.

and wealth of the inhabitants, as rendering the laborious exertions required by comparatively unproductive land, such as the neighbourhood of Bowmore affords, unnecessary. These small farmers will probably pursue their old system of domestic manufacture, and give employment as heretofore to looms, smiths, and other tradesmen. But the incumbrance of two stories to the new cottages, where one would be sufficient, together with a loft or store-room, appears needlessly expensive. If the wealth of the people were likely to increase, there would be just ground for providing them by anticipation with suitable habitations. But from what sources can it be derived? From none apparently but from the small portions of land which are sufficient to support the families, and pay the rents, and will yield little surplus, unless where much pains are bestowed on the cultivation. That the villages may be maintained there can be no doubt. But the expense of building unnecessarily large cottages will be ill borne by the people; and the land will prove less productive than if placed under a more general and better management. The system of large farms and of labourers placed in small but neat cottages, having just sufficient land to supply them with some comforts, and the means of subsistence during temporary want of employment, without rendering them independent, would have been far preferable.

At Port Eleanor several tradesmen have settled, but none of them thrive as yet, except masons and wrights, who are employed in building the houses. The grocers, who also sell articles of miscellaneous kinds, succeed pretty well. I found a baker and his wife, from Glasgow, occupying a small house, having been tempted to the spot by an advertisement. They bake wheaten bread (the oat cake requiring no regular baker), and as it is only used as a luxury on the occasion of an entertainment or a funeral, they obtain little custom and a bare subsistence.

The expectation of a fishery at Port Eleanor on the coast, produced by the appearance of a shoal of herrings, has been disappointed, as might be expected, if the reasonings of a former part of these sketches were just, by the caprice of these fish. The herring-fishery was formerly attempted on the west coast, but without success. Vast shoals of herrings pass this coast from March to the end of the year; and as many as six or seven are sometimes found in the stomachs of the fish called stainlocks. Their flavour is fine, but the tides are too strong to allow of their being taken: the boats would be hurried away from their position, and if anchored, would be drawn under water; whilst the eddies would fold the nets.

Mr. W. Campbell has established a fishery with better prospect, at the south-west point of

the island. The creek of Portnahaven lies within a sound, separating Isla from two small islands, one of which is provided with a light-house, to warn shipping from the dangerous west-coast of the island. The tide in this narrow passage exhibits the singular phenomenon of running from east to west during the whole twenty-four hours, with the exception of three quarters of an hour, when it flows in the opposite direction, and is very strong and turbulent, both in the sound and in the channel between the islands. In this creek Mr. W. Campbell has formed his fishing-village on the basis of an old one, which he found in a poor and wretched state. The inhabitants formerly lived in miserable hovels, many of which were merely holes in the bank, fronted with such rude materials as the neighbourhood afforded, and fished in small boats of twelve feet keel, without more exertion than was just sufficient to eke out a scanty subsistence; whilst the practice of robbing lines was so common that many people were deterred from engaging in the fishing. Mr. W. Campbell, relying on the improveable resources of the neighbouring sea, encouraged them to build cottages on a new plan, arranged in rows on either side of the creek, neatly slated, and furnished with windows, fire-places, and sometimes with grates. Some of these became shops, which are well supported by the little colony; smiths,

grocers, and other tradesmen, prospering. A single public-house is licensed, and that neat, and kept in an orderly manner. Mr. W. Campbell encouraged the people to build these cottages, by liberally granting them leases of ninety-nine years, which ill behaviour alone forfeits: and such was their eagerness in pressing forward to the adoption of his plan, that he was compelled to allow none to settle who had not a fair prospect of employment. The fishermen were induced to substitute good boats, of from twenty to twenty-five feet keel, for the shallops, which they formerly used, and they have now about twenty of that size. The fish which they usually take are stainlocks, a species of skate, and cod, but in much smaller quantities. They are caught only with lines, on banks to westward, which are left dry at low water. The fish are dried on the rocks, and salted in barrels: a salt-house is erected in the village. The amount of bounty on the quantity cured by the fishermen is 300*l.* per annum; the bounty on a ton of cod, which sells for 12*l.*, being 4*l.* This much encourages the outlay of money in the purchase of boat-lines and other implements, as it serves as a security for the repayment of loans, by which this is defrayed. Each boat, as soon as sufficient fish have been cured to form a cargo, conveys it to Ireland. Mr. W. Campbell is

desirous of putting a stop to this system, which proves a serious drawback to the wealth of the little colony, as so great a part of their time, which might be profitably employed in fishing, is wasted in curing the fish, and in going to and from the market. For this purpose he wishes to erect houses for curing the fish, a pier for the convenience and security of the boats, and to launch a smack to carry the collective produce of the fishery to the market. But the people, unable or unwilling to comprehend the advantages of the division of labour, are no less obstinately rivetted than the ruder natives of the more northern islands, to their ancient system, produced originally by necessity, of carrying on, with their own hands, every portion of the process, from the catching to the sale of the fish, and find strong inducement to adhere to it. The fisherman never seeks the sea from choice, and finds in the work of curing the fish a ready pretext for remaining on shore. The attendance at the market is a source of amusement which he would not willingly forego: and above all, his native caution and inveterate suspiciousness render him jealous of any interloper between himself and the purchaser, depriving him of a share of his expected profits.

It is remarkable that no boat belonging to Portnahaven has been lost within the recollection of the inhabitants. Order is preserved in the village by

two baillies, officers annually elected by the natives, who levy fines for nuisances or misconduct*.

I have yet adverted little to the manufactures of the Highlands and Islands, a very important branch of the industry of the inhabitants. Almost all the articles of ordinary use are fabricated by themselves. Every cottage in Isla, and very generally throughout these regions, has its spinning-wheel: the yarn when spun, is sent to the loom, and woven into shirts, sheeting, and other articles of dress: handkerchiefs and other fancy articles are procured from Glasgow.

Wool is also carded and spun by the women and girls, and woven at the loom into plaiding, blankets, &c. The looms are erected in cottages appropriated to the purpose; and supply twenty or more neighbouring farmers with what is called *customary work*, or work done for customers. The men employed at these looms earn from 2s. to 2s. 6d. per day. Wrights, smiths, tailors, shoemakers, &c., are similarly maintained by clusters of farms: each customer chars his peat, and provides the timber, and pays for the work done; sometimes the mechanic

* The anticipated success of this little fishing-colony has been much checked by the withdrawal of the bounty on cured fish, which induced the storekeepers to advance money to the fishermen, and consequently to stimulate their industry, as creditors, interested in their success.—(1836.)

is allowed, in lieu of pecuniary compensation, a portion of land. The cloth when woven is dyed by the people: the black colour, which is generally used, is produced from the bark of the elder-tree, steeped in a caldron, and called Scotch mahogany. Indigo is purchased, to supply the blue colour, which is preferred near the towns, and where the people are better dressed. The tailor receives a day's wages for making up a coat. I was assured by an old man in Jura, that the coat which he wore cost but 2s. At Brodick, in Arran, a frequented watering-place, the cottager pays 5s. for his jacket, the dyeing only being supplied by a regular manufactory. The people knit their own stockings even at Tarbert, where an unsuccessful attempt has been made to introduce the regular manufacture.

The tanning of leather has been much prevented by the Excise: the fishermen of Tarbert still avail themselves of the exemption in their favour, granted with a view to the encouragement of the fishery in tanning their nets, using the bark of oak or beech for the practice, though tanneries have been established at both Campbeltown and Rothsay. The whole process of shoe or brogue making is performed by the people. The brogue is stitched with wang, *i. e.* thongs of calf-leather, instead of hemp, and as the ligament is less tight, admits

water freely: but the brogue is also fortified at the toe with an additional covering of leather, to protect it from the cutting of the heath. The cow-leather is first steeped in water impregnated with lime to consume the hair, which is never retained in the Highland brogue, and then tanned by being steeped in bark water. Brogues are finished in half the time required for shoes; and the difference of price of the article when purchased is 7s. or 7s. 6d. of the former, and 8s. and 8s. 6d. of the latter. The cost of the brogue to the shepherd is merely 1s. 3d., the price of the work.

The common household work of repairs, &c., is executed by travelling bands of tinkers (Highlanders), usually consisting of about fifteen or twenty persons, men, women, and children, who wander about the country living a gipsy life, and are very usefully employed in making lamps, mending pots and pans, and performing other work of this description. They subsist as much by begging as by the rewards of their industry; for the Highlanders will not refuse the meal of potatoes when asked, though cautiously shunning their company, as they are reputed thieves, much inclined to intoxication, and fight much together. The cottagers in England and Scotland were formerly supplied by these itinerant venders with most of the commodities which could not be provided by domestic manufac-

ture; and it is to the settlement of a company of them on the present site of Paisley, soon after the union, that that large town owes its origin.

The attempt to substitute better machinery for the rude process of native manufactures has been hitherto unfortunate, or only partially successful. Carding-mills have been erected by spirited individuals at Oban, in Arran, Cantyre, and on the estate of General Campbell, of Loch Nell; and these are resorted to by the cottagers from places twenty miles distant, on account of the superiority of work. But still, even in the neighbourhood of the mills, the people prefer their domestic manufacture. The practice of dyeing is carried on by the peasants, at the very doors of the dyeing-houses of Campbeltown, notwithstanding the exertions of the Excise. The tanneries at Campbeltown have been abandoned. The cotton and woollen manufactories at the same place have been entirely unsuccessful; and the woollen at Tarbert have been little profitable.

The projects for establishing regular manufactories at Tobermory, and other places in the Highlands, completely failed. They were formed for the purpose of affording employment to the people, and preventing emigration: but proved ill-adapted to the situation of the places in which they were established, and to the habits of the people for whose benefit they were destined: whilst the plan

adopted for counteracting the disadvantages resulting from these circumstances, tended only to aggravate them. The situation of the places selected exposed them to the twofold competition of the native manufactures and those of Glasgow, the former enjoying the preference resulting from custom, prejudice, cheapness, or the profit of the little communities by which they were supported: the latter possessing superior advantages in regard to fuel, machinery, and the opportunity of procuring a sufficient number of skilful workmen. To this twofold competition the recent failure of the manufactories of Cambeltown must be particularly ascribed.

The habits of the natives were unsuited to regular manufacturing employments; and yet on their industry and skill, their employers depended, as calculated to counterbalance other disadvantages. The manufacturers of Tobermory looked to Mull to supply them with workmen. How far such expectation was well founded may be inferred from the testimony of an eminent manufacturer of Glasgow. This individual informed Lord Selkirk that at different times, when he wanted hands, he had brought many families from this island, but that he scarcely ever derived any benefit but from the children,—the grown-up people (from want of early associations, he supposed) appearing almost to be without a capacity of acquiring dexterity in the very common operations. If, when

transplanted to Glasgow, and placed under skilful superintendence, they were found incapable, were they likely to succeed better, exposed to the habits and temptations inseparable from their own homes and neighbourhood?

In order to tempt the people to renounce their old habits and occupations in favour of this new employment, plots of land were offered to them: and thus the only inducement which might possibly overcome their natural repugnance to untried work, — the stimulus of necessity, — was in part withdrawn*.

There was one branch of manufacture which had been successfully introduced into some parts of the Highlands and Islands, affording considerable exports till superseded by the Glasgow manufactories: the spinning of yarn. It formed a staple of Isla: no less than ten thousand pounds' worth has been exported in a year. The rents were paid out of the produce of the yarn: and the women of the Island were all employed in spinning, as else-

* The fate of the manufactories established at Inverness, has been similar to that of those in the western Highlands. Since the beginning of the century two breweries were established in Inverness, two manufactories for hempen cloth, and one for coarse cloth. The breweries are extinct; the manufactures remain: the coarse cloth company, instead of drawing profits, pays debts; whilst in Inverness-shire and Ross-shire, the lower classes persevere in manufacturing much plaiding and worsted stockings for home consumption.—*Anderson's Prize Essay, Transactions of Highland Society*, vol. ii.

where in field-labour: spinning is now limited in Isla to the supply of domestic consumption.

Mr. Campbell has endeavoured to introduce the book-muslin into Isla: he imported ten families from Glasgow, and provided them with these cottages, in the hope of forming a manufacturing colony, which might be recruited from the native population. It has proved not altogether unsuccessful: of the original number of families, four only remain, and their industry is repaid, as they live at a much cheaper rate than the workmen in Glasgow. Their work is sent to establishments in Glasgow, one of which belongs to Mr. Campbell.

The project of establishing regular manufacturing establishments, in these regions, was mistaken, not only as inevitably unprofitable, but as tending to divert the people from agriculture and the fisheries, their legitimate sources of employment. In Isla, especially, this result has followed. The women here, since they ceased to spin yarn for exportation, are now more occupied in field-labour, and in cultivating their little plots of ground, whilst their husbands are fishing. The partial success of the carding-mills, dyeing-houses, and tanneries, which have been erected, cannot be considered as affording encouragement to a renewal of the manufacturing experiments which have proved so unsuccessful, as these must be looked upon as only supplying a portion of the process of domestic manufacture.

The competition for the general supply of the Highlands and Islands with the various articles of dress, except those of fancy, must be carried on between the domestic manufacture and that of Glasgow: and the introduction of steam and increased facilities of conveyance and intercourse has operated necessarily in favour of the latter. The struggle cannot be regarded without deep interest, as pregnant with results very important to the welfare of a considerable population. It is superfluous to consider the question in an economical point of view; as notwithstanding the allegation that the wool might be woven at Glasgow more cheaply than at the country looms, the saving is too trivial to be dwelt upon.

The observations on the native manufactures of the Isle of Man, in a former part of these Sketches, apply to the question regarded in other and more important relations. The supersession of the spinning-wheel for the domestic supply of the cottages, by the machinery of Glasgow, would deprive the women and girls of employment which now suffices for rainy days; and therefore must be deprecated, as calculated to produce idleness, and all its concomitant evils. The transfer of the weaving from the cottage-looms to those of Glasgow would produce an increase in the population of the town, at the expense of that of the country: and would be therefore an evil, inasmuch as the country is more

conducive to the physical and moral well-being of a people than the town. The present system of country manufacturing is attended with disadvantages,—material but not incorrigible. Doubtless it could be, in part, if not entirely, reformed under the vigilant superintendence of a landlord.

The system is now defective from the want of adequate employment for each loom; and the consequent eking out of the subsistence of the workmen, by means of land and other resources. Now if the number of looms were somewhat diminished, sufficiently to secure to those employed by them the occupation of their whole time, they would execute their work more regularly and skilfully. The practice of remunerating mechanics, and these rural manufacturers, by portions of land instead of wages, should be abandoned, as it tends to render them slovenly and neglectful in their stated vocation. The country manufactories might be easily rendered instrumental in promoting cleanliness, instead of being, as at present, usually exemplary only for their filth. The looms are often erected in large hovels: and the fire is laid on the floor, while the smoke pervades the whole dwelling, for the purpose, it is said, of seasoning the materials. If the landlord supplied these manufacturers with better houses, and annexed as a condition to the lease, that they should not be subject to such pollution, the people might learn from them the comfort and advantage

of cleanliness. The force of example in improving the habits of the people is remarkable: the influence of a town pervades the surrounding country: and the residence of mechanics in a village is visible in the more general attention of the people to the neatness of their dwellings. The effects of a reformed system of rural and domestic manufactures would be widely perceptible.

The women, notwithstanding the leisure which they enjoy, and their manufacturing industry, discover their inveterate indolence in their disinclination to sewing: manifesting their repugnance to it in the schools at which it is taught. In Isla the women send their caps to be mended in Glasgow, rather than use their own hands for the purpose, and contentedly see their husbands and brothers in rags. Mr. W. Campbell has succeeded in introducing plain embroidery-work at Portnahaven: the girls have learnt it, and execute it skilfully.

The people of Isla are generally well fed. The collections for the poor, in the single parish of Kilchoman, accumulated in five years to 120*l.*, through the efforts of the minister to induce his parishioners to attend church.

The moral and religious improvement of the natives of Isla will be greatly promoted by the recent subdivision of the parishes, erection of parliamentary churches, and the appointment of minis-

ters in the new parochial districts. The island, now containing 10,000 inhabitants, was formerly divided into two parishes, and subsequently into three, each of which has been subdivided into two districts, each becoming a separate charge: there are consequently six ministers and churches in the island, three of which have been the result of the Parliamentary grant. The three parochial ministers receive 450*l.* each per annum, of which the teinds amount only to 150*l.*, being fixed at the ancient valuation in the reign of Charles the First. Nothing proves more strongly the erroneousness of this invariable rate, than that whilst the teinds in this fertile island should amount only to 450*l.* for its three parishes, in the much less productive island of Coll, a single parish, they amount to 500*l.*, that island having not been valued at the above-mentioned period, and not till about thirty years ago.

The character of the clergy of Isla has been improved. The Scriptures are much circulated amongst the people: the Bible is often bound in two parts, to each of which is appended the national version of the Psalms; the two volumes are called a pair of Bibles. The Bible Society of the island has unfortunately become almost extinct, as it has lost the support of the tacksmen who formerly befriended it.

Education has already done much for these islanders. The schools are very numerous; there

are some belonging to the Gaelic School Society. I saw the children gathering together for instruction in a dreary part of the Island, girls and boys, some of the elder ones carrying two pieces of peat under one arm, and their Bibles under the other; as it is the rule that each should contribute in turn to the supply of the fire. The schoolmaster arrived, and summoned the stragglers by his horn, which the hills re-echoed. At the General Assembly's School Latin and Greek, mensuration and navigation, are taught.

A great moral improvement has already taken place among the people. When Mr. W. Campbell arrived fourteen years ago, they were wild, savage, and averse to reformation; and, indeed, in some parts of the island, as we have seen, they still remain in an uncivilized state. Illicit distillation of spirits, smuggling, and shore-hunting, *i. e.* plundering wrecks, were much practised, producing the necessary demoralizing effects. It is only lately that the last of these habits has been abandoned; and in no small degree, in consequence of the cessation of wrecks, resulting from the erection of the light-house. Five years ago Mr. W. Campbell committed some persons, two of them sons of a principal inhabitant of the island, for this offence, and they were transported for seven years. The legal distilleries now absorb all the grain requisite, and have here, as elsewhere, seconded the efforts of

the landed proprietors, to diminish the baneful practice of smuggling*. The removal of these two incentives to vicious conduct has already produced salutary effects; though the people are still represented as idle and disorderly, and given to drinking, and consequently sometimes to fighting at markets, and fairs, funerals, weddings, and other occasions of public assemblage.

The practice of expending large sums on entertainments at funerals still prevails to a great degree in Isla; and any sacrifice is made, rather than not show proper honour to the dead, and support the dignity of the family. A recent instance has occurred, of a widow and her children being almost ruined by one of these acts of prodigality. The clergy inveigh against the practice. On one of these occasions a fight took place, when a labourer of Mr. W. Campbell's was killed in a brutal manner, and on Mr. Campbell, who acts as magistrate, transporting the offenders, the people exclaimed that he could not be his father's son in thus committing one of his own people; and the witnesses from the island perjured themselves. The operation of law is still much obstructed by the old clannish feeling of not betraying a relation or clansman, of protecting him if possible, and of uttering a falsehood, or committing perjury, rather than be the

* See *Appendix*, Note V.

means of convicting him, mixed with much of the old prejudice, interwoven with the illegal habits of the people, of considering the law as an infringement on their rights, and legitimate sources of profit : on the other hand, there is no inducement to discover an offender ; and a falshood, in order to save a person of the same name, is regarded not only justifiable, but obligatory. An old woman once petitioned Mr. W. Campbell to release her from the penalties of violating the excise law, on the ground of her grandmother having been foster-mother to his grandfather.

The village of Portnahaven already affords evidence of the improvement produced by the erection of a parliamentary church, and of a school of the Society for the Propagation of Christian Knowledge. The natives have hitherto had little opportunity of attending divine service. The parish church was so far distant, that there were married women in the village, even within a few years, who had never heard a sermon preached. The church and manse were built out of the parliamentary fund for the sum of 1500*l.*, but unfortunately badly executed. Mr. W. Campbell supplied the glebe, six acres enclosures, &c., and built galleries, and was allowed the nomination of the minister. The church contains 450 persons.

Gaelic is still generally spoken throughout Isla. Of several farmers, at one place I found but one who

spoke English, and that imperfectly. The schoolmaster found at Portnahaven, that the children usually lay aside their English after leaving school.

The names of Macdonald and Maclean, the clans which formerly possessed or contended for the island, are the most common. Finlagan lake, near the Sound, contains an island, crowned with the picturesque ruins of a castle belonging to the former Lords of the Isles, celebrated as the place of their coronation : and the remains of an old chapel are near to it. The lake, the island, the ruins, and the distant Paps of Jura, form a wild romantic scene ; and hamlets, cottages, cultivation, and herds of cattle grazing, diversify it.

Mr. Campbell, of Isla, is fond of old Highland customs, wears the ancient dress, and encourages his tenants to imitate his example : about sixty of them have adopted it on all public occasions ; and Isla appears amongst them at the fairs of Bowmore. The chief amusements of the people occur from Christmas to old New Year's day, during which time they keep up regular Saturnalia : the game of shinty is then played on the sand-links.

There are two remarkable cemeteries in this island, at Kilchoman and Kildalton. The church and manse of the former stand at the entrance of a defile, piercing a rocky ridge. The churchyard contains a cross nine feet high, much ornamented, exhibiting a representation of Christ crucified be-

tween two thieves, and several ancient tombstones, on which are carved figures grasping the chalice, swords, ships, and other devices. They have been removed from their original position, and have been freely made use of to cover the bones of the rural successors of the warlike and princely race who once lay beneath them. The latter is situated on the most picturesque part of the eastern coast. It contains a small ruined church, called by the people a cathedral; and near to it are two crosses, one seven feet high, decorated with figures; the other ten feet, ornamented with heads of beasts in high relief, shaped similarly to those which I have already described, beautiful specimens. Some false intimations of an intention to remove the crosses having reached the village, the people showed much anxiety on the subject; and the older inhabitants predicted that calamities would be consequent on the sacrilege. There were some old monuments; but the guide was particularly desirous of pointing out to me the tomb of Mac-Karter, a flat stone bearing the device of a sword and chain. The body alone is buried here. The skull is still to be seen placed on a rock within a cave, beneath the neighbouring headland, which bears the name of Mac Karter, from the circumstance of an individual of that name having been murdered there. My guide, who had often seen and handled it, assured me that all attempts to remove

it have failed: it has been cast into the sea, and carried away, but has always resumed its station. This story is current and credited. Mr. Campbell, of Jura, recollects a family of Mac Karter residing near the spot where the murder is said to have been committed, whose ancestors had lived there for several generations.

Several coffins have been found in this island seldom exceeding four feet in length, and containing earthen-ware urns. One of these, which was closed, the people could not be prevailed upon to open; and they were persuaded that a stone removed from the grave would return to its position. To the yet remaining dread of this species of sacrilege, the preservation of the antiquities of this island is attributable. A proof that it is unfortunately on the wane has been afforded by the recent destruction of some of the crosses in the cemeteries.

CHAPTER XXIII.

JURA, COLONSAY, ORANSAY, JURA,
Corryvraken.

THE lofty and conical Paps of Jura tower above the northern shore of the sound between that island and Isla; whilst the north-eastern point of Isla is guarded by the dark and broken precipices of MacKarter's Head; and the eastern entrance of the sound is supplied with a breakwater, by a group of islands, on one of which stands a castle, built, according to the popular legend, by an old woman, who in her eager haste to meet MacKarter, at Proag, stripped the mountain, on which she was sitting, of its summit. Colonsay appears in perspective to westward; and eastward, Cantyre, backed by the rugged summits of Arran.

The residence of Mr. Campbell, the laird of Jura, is built on a weather-beaten eminence above the sea, a decent farm-house, surrounded with ramparts of peat. His property comprehends the whole of Jura, excepting two farms, Scarba, and several other Islands, altogether twenty in number, besides a considerable tract on the mainland. Mr. Campbell is so attached to his present habitation, that he has vowed to end his days in it, though he has built a house, in the modern style, near it, as a

residence for his son. Mr. Campbell was born in 1744, and has spent his whole life in this island. The greatest misery, which he ever experienced, was the change of the national garb; he recollected every man in the island clad in the kilt. Speaking of Bein-an-noir, the highest of the Paps, he observed with shame, that he had never reached its summit till he accompanied Pennant. Pennant, he assured me, descended much more happily than he ascended, on the strength of a glass of whisky, which he had prevailed on him to drink, a beverage to which the traveller expressed a dislike. Mr. Campbell said of Pennant that he derived his information too much from the lower classes.

The Paps form the principal feature of Jura. The highest, Bein-an-noir, or the golden mountain, so called from its metallic appearance, rises to an elevation of 2240 feet above the level of the sea. The best ascent to it is from the bay of the small isles, passing Corrabhain, or the steep peak, the most precipitous, but lowest of the cluster. I cannot speak of the view, as the weather was cloudy when I reached its summit; while Jura's piper, who accompanied me, strove in vain to call to our aid the Macdonalds, the ancient lords of the island, by the loud strains of their own animating pibroch.

The bay of the small isles affords good anchorage for shipping. The surrounding shores and hills are cultivated but poorly, and without enclosures.

A sheltered rock, at the entrance of a wooded glen, contains a decent public house, a mill, some cottages, and a little pier for boats. The innkeeper rents the largest arable farm in the Island for 100*l.*, but declines improving it, as he has no lease. All the corn used in the Island is ground at the above mill, passing through the hands of the laird, who remunerates the miller, chiefly in the old style, for his work, by what is called multure, one-sixteenth of the grain which he grinds. The parish church stands on the shore of the bay. It might be taken for a good school-house, and is used for that purpose. The master spoke English but little: he taught his scholars to read it, but confined himself to grammatical explanations, and made use of no catechetical instructions; consequently their lore could be of little or no advantage to them. The manse is near to the church. This was, till lately, the only place of worship in a parish comprehending the Islands of Jura, Scarba, Colonsay, and Oransay: formerly Gigha was also included in it. There is no other in Jura. The sacrament has been administered once in two years in this island; once in three years in Colonsay and Oransay; but its celebration will be hereafter more frequent and regular.

There is a parochial school here, and another at Lagg. At the latter the master observed, that the children learnt English more easily than Gaelic, and

that therefore he taught it to them first; and certainly their proficiency did credit to his instructions.

The little agriculture in Jura is in a very neglected state: no leases are granted. The island yields neither lime-earth, marl, nor calcareous sand. The farms are clustered together; on an average eight in number, each farmer having a separate plot of ground for corn and potatoes, and from four to eight cows grazing on a common pasture. The dwellings of the farmers are wretched, and those of the cottagers yet more so. One of these, by a lakeside near the sound, I entered at the invitation of an old woman, who addressed me in good English and with much politeness, apologizing at the same time for its poverty and dirt. It was built under a bank forming one of its sides, and was lighted by a single small pane of glass. A hole in the roof served for a chimney; and nearly half the area was appropriated to a cow; the bed and some miserable furniture covered the little remaining room. It had been penetrated during the late storms by the water, which lay a foot deep on the floor. We sat down, and the poor woman hoped I would excuse her appearance, observing that it was vain to wear clean clothes, which would be instantly soiled by the soot, and then offered me milk, cream, or tea. She conversed with sense, spirit, and even elegance, and with perfect ease, showing that she had seen better days; asked me the usual questions as to

my arrival in Jura, and spoke of the Jura family and of other lairds, like one who knew their history and characters, and had lived on equal terms with them. She informed me that she was seventy-four years of age, sister to a farmer in the Island, the oldest of Mr. Campbell's tenants, who was ninety years of age, who lived at some miles distant, and allowed her the hovel which she occupied, and her cow for her subsistence. He would give me a hearty welcome, she assured me, if I would visit him. Another of her brothers had been captain in the 42nd regiment. She was born and had passed part of her life in Jura, had married and lived with her husband on the mainland, and on his death removed with her two sons to Bowmore, in Isla. One of them had held the commission of lieutenant in the army; the other had spent two years in Glasgow, attending the University, with a view to a liberal profession, and became, to use her own expression, a noble scholar. But ill health blasted his prospects, and he now lived with his mother. She was perfectly satisfied with her lot, only complaining of the uncomfortableness of her dwelling, and its being by no means proof against the violence of the storms. Her son read the Bible to her; and when the weather permitted, she attended Kilmenie Church, and passed the night at her brother's house. Her neighbours treated her with kindness, and rendered her any assistance which she required. The

old lady bore a good character in the neighbourhood.

In this island I found much of that genuine hospitality which characterizes the lowest, no less than the higher classes of the natives of these regions. They invariably offer their visitors the best fare which they can command; and frequently it is with the utmost difficulty, and evidently to their mortification, that they can be persuaded to accept remuneration. A shepherd in Jura, who had accompanied me during a considerable distance, on bidding me farewell, quoted, with as much cordiality as dignity, the Gaelic proverb: "Hills and mountains can never meet, but men may meet again."

A half-decked smack, belonging to Mr. Macneil, of Colonsay, afforded me a passage to that Island, and brought me to a little bay, in which the laird has formed a harbour by the erection of a pier. The tide rises here fifteen feet, though not more than seven on any part of the coast of Isla. Vessels cannot refit in Isla or Jura; but here a vessel of 500 tons has been repaired, and supplied with a new keel. It is singular that this bay, though open to the east, is much more affected by the west wind, a circumstance arising from the eddy of the heavy sea, which sets in when that wind blows upon the island. A hamlet and a church are built here.

Colonsay is a mass of knolls and promontories,

in parts sprinkled with Mr. Macneil's oak-plantations, which grow wherever enclosed. Killoran, his residence, so called from its standing on the spot on which, according to tradition, a Saint, named Oran, was buried alive by Saint Columba, as a punishment for heresy (Killoran, signifying the grave of Oran), was built by Mr. Macneil's grandfather, in 1722. It is situated in a sheltered hollow, beneath the lofty rampart which forms the northern coast of the Island. Its little park, ornamented with clumps of trees, recalls England to recollection; and the neighbourhood of the sea would not be suspected, but for an opening in the coast discovering a sandy bay, bounded by rude overhanging rocks. Mr. Macneil has built a cottage, in the style of a fortification, on the site of an old building, in which his ancestors were compelled to take refuge for some time from the fury of the Islanders, when he first took possession of the Island, having acquired it by exchange with the Duke of Argyle. They had no cause of complaint, except unwillingness to change their former master. In the clannish age of Scotland, a purchase needed the ratification of the sword.

The scenery of the north and north-west coast of the Island is very grand, consisting of a long range of stupendous black cliffs, rising in successive terraces, beetling far over the base, and worked out into caverns, and broken into coves and promon-

tories. An eagle and some Cornish choughs were hovering about the rocks. The western coast of Colonsay is dangerous to shipping, but that of Oransay still more so, being lower and less perceptible, and defended by sunken rocks. The wreck of a large American ship is still visible in a bay of the latter island.

The chief cultivation of Colonsay is confined to a valley, which traverses the island, containing a lake. Mr. Macneil has transplanted hither his tenants from less favoured situations. The produce, through improved cultivation, now exceeds the consumption; and barley is exported to supply the distilleries of Isla, and Mr. Macneil's tenants in Jura. The cattle are proverbially excellent, under Mr. Macneil's superior management. The farms are all small, but separate. The tenants are encouraged to improve their allotments, by five years' leases, and by exemption of rent during the first part of the time. They build their own houses: some of these belonging to crofters were superior to any which I had yet seen, except those built by the proprietors in Isla. They were of stone, neatly constructed without mortar, and well thatched; containing two, and sometimes three, good dwelling apartments, a store-house or barn, a byre, and perhaps another apartment built *in a run*. The dwelling-apartment and kitchen were furnished with fire-places, and the lamp was placed

over them. The common lamp used in the Highlands, called the *cruizy*, is not unlike the Roman: the light is produced from fish-oil, and the pith of the reed serves as a wick. The interior indicated comfort. The most marked difference appeared in these cottages, which were furnished with chimnies, the use of which Mr. Macneil encourages, by allowing 10*l.* and 12*l.* to the tenants, who build their cottages with such appendage. In those the white-wash on the walls was unsoiled, the floor was clean and carefully swept, and the furniture kept in the same manner: those, on the other hand, in which the fire was laid in the usual fashion, were filled with smoke, and the inmates, despairing of contending with the soot, abandoned their dwelling to filth and disorder. Yet the people, even when they have their chimney, will not make use of it, placing their fire on the floor on the usual pretext that the *wee things* may be able to get round it. Lord Breadalbane, and other proprietors on the opposite coast, have been equally unsuccessful with their chimnies. I was informed by the occupants of the cottages built by Lord Breadalbane, that the chimnies were used *only once a year*. The cottages in Colonsay are overrun with poultry, which are suffered to perch on the beds and looms; on the beds may be occasionally seen a nest, in which a new-laid egg had been duly deposited.

A most important article of exportation from

Colonsay and Oransay is the kelp, which is preferred to any other in the glass manufactories of Dumbarton; and still maintains its ground, yielding an ample profit to the proprietor,—whilst this once valuable production of the Scottish shores has elsewhere been almost completely superseded by the use of other substitutes. The cause of its superiority must be sought for partly in the intrinsic excellency of the weed, and partly in the mode of preparing it, used by Mr. Macneil. A chief point in the process is, to prevent the admixture of sand with the kelp; and this is secured by gathering the kelp while still floating, before the receding tide has laid it down, and then depositing it on iron plates to be prepared. A very fine sand, used in the manufacture, is furnished by the island. Mr. Macneil observed, that had the other maritime landlords employed an active superintendent to regulate the process of manufacturing the kelp, it would not have failed: but the negligent habits of the peasantry are ill suited to such work. Instead of preserving the kelp from the admixture of sand, they mix it with the weed for the purpose of increasing its weight. The sand used in the glass manufactories of Dumbarton is chiefly brought from England, as Scotland yields little sufficiently fine for that purpose. He exports 200 tons annually.

The few hares and partridges which the Island rears, are unmolested by vermin, as it is entirely

free from foxes, weasels, polecats, toads, moles, or snakes.

The fish are very various and plentiful, but the herrings do not frequent its coasts. At Mr. Macniel's breakfast-table there were four different sorts of fish. The sea-fowl abound proportionally.

A pass under rocks leads to the sound which separates Oransay from Colonsay. On the shore are the roofless remains of a chapel, where, according to tradition, service was performed anciently, for the benefit of those whom the tide prevented reaching the church at Oransay. Ivy mantles both the rocks and the chapel. Oransay is level, with the exception of a ridge of rocks between 200 and 300 feet in height, at the foot of which are the remains of the celebrated chapel and monastery; the walls and substructions of several apartments remain, but the cloister described by Pennant has fallen to ruins. The interior of the chapel and the ground adjacent, were formerly used as a cemetery for this and the neighbouring island. But there is in Colonsay an ancient cemetery, containing the remains of a stone circle and a chapel, which is believed by the inhabitants to have been built before the birth of Christ. Mr. Macneil's son has built a house for his own residence in Oransay, near the ruins.

The population of Colonsay is 1000, and is insufficient for the labour required: it has been too

much thinned by emigrations to America, about ten and three years ago. It is found necessary to supply the deficiency of hands by labourers from Isla and Jura. The emigrants, by the last accounts, were desirous of returning to their native islands. The natives being well employed at home, and unequal to contend with the Irish labourers, do not resort to the Lowlands. The intercourse with the Lowlands has however increased by other means, arising from steam-vessels, &c., and has proved productive of great benefit to the Islanders. Mr. Macneil is lord paramount and magistrate of the island. He has effectually suppressed smuggling during twenty-five years, having at the commencement of that period gone the round with the Excise officer, and expressed his determination to banish any transgressor from the Island. There are two schools, one English, and one Gaelic: the cost of education is extremely cheap, being 1s. 6d. per quarter reading, and 2s. writing, and 2s. 6d. arithmetic.

From Colonsay I returned to Jura. Well might Pennant, who only saw the western coast of the latter island, describe it as a mass of weather-beaten barrenness. No trace of habitation appears on the dreary sides of its mountains, extending thirty miles in length; and no ship can approach it with safety, as the entrance to Loch Tarbert, the only harbour, is obstructed by sunken rocks, and the

navigation is rendered hazardous by shoals, while at the north-west point the Gulf of Corryvraken, formed by the conflict of the currents, opens its jaws to receive any vessel which may get entangled in them; and a similar commotion of waters is produced, though in a far less formidable degree, at the south-west.

The fishermen who catch the herrings and other fish which frequent Loch Tarbert, are from Isla, and take up their quarters in the caves, while their few boats afford the only proof of human inhabitants. The upper part of this Bay is connected with the lower by a passage of the breadth of a canal between high rocks.

On landing and reaching a height, in the midst of the waste howling wilderness, for wind and rain augmented the dreariness of the scene, I perceived on a distant knoll a solitary black spot, which might have been mistaken by an unpractised eye for a sign, infallible to the sportsman, of the place of his wounded quarry,—a collection of crows or corbies, employed in accelerating the death or devouring the carcase of the poor animal. It proved, however, on near approach, to be a band of mourners assembled at a rustic funeral, on an ancient and perfectly sequestered cemetery, distinguished by the ruins of a chapel. A grave was digging to receive the remains of a shepherd of the laird of Jura; and beside the coffin lay two others, containing the

bodies of his children, one of whom had been buried two years, and the other one year, and were now taken up to make room for their parent.

When the grave was closed, the mourners, sixty in number, attended by their dogs, which were very numerous, sat down on the ground, now thoroughly soaked with heavy rain, which had been falling for some hours, and the brother-in-law of the deceased invited me to drink a glass of whisky, and eat some oat-cake. About twenty women and girls were present, among whom were the mother and daughter, accompanied by the sons of the deceased. The mother, nearly seventy years of age, sat fixing her eyes earnestly on the grave, in which were buried her husband, and children, and grandchildren, and just sipped the whisky which was first offered to her. The women seemed to dispense with this part of the ceremony, but the men and boys drank their three rounds, according to custom; and abundance of oat-cake was distributed. The repast was concluded with a prayer and thanksgiving in Gaelic, delivered by a brother-in-law of the deceased, who stood up in the midst of the circle, all present being uncovered.

A man from Isla, whom I had asked whether prayer was ever offered on these occasions, replied with obvious suspicion as to the motives of the inquiry, and in a low tone of voice "Yes, that is beginning: but it is Popish, and there are no

Papists here ;” at the same time he had no objection to the commencing and concluding with thanksgiving, which had taken place that day. He added that the brother talked all about the New Testament, which he could do very well: that they had schools, and that it was a great blessing to be able to read the Bible both in English and Gaelic.

The mourners had assembled with the promptitude characteristic of their ancient obedience to any summons to a public occasion, for the deceased had breathed his last only the day before, at five in the morning. Friends had been instantly despatched in all directions to different parts of Jura and Isla, inviting the mourners to the grave at three the following afternoon. The corpse had been brought half the length of the island that day: and the Isla man, with whom I had conversed, had walked thirty miles since morning, and intended returning twenty miles more to the ferry of Portaskig that evening. They had well earned the refreshment provided for them. The ceremony was conducted with perfect order and solemnity: and the mourners returned to Tarbert, where boats awaited them. The little public-house in Lagg bay, where we landed and I took up my quarters, was well thronged; and my companions soon exchanged their demure looks for smiling and merriment: those who had far to return were induced to stay, and they continued drinking and singing till past

midnight, making an uproar which prevented the possibility of sleeping.

The mourners found their reception at Tarbert so pleasant, that they remained next day, and assisted in restoring a bridge which had been swept away by a torrent. It consisted of a stone embankment, in the centre of which an interval was left, just sufficient for the passage of the water when at its ordinary height, beneath a covering of flag-stones. About twenty men were employed, and it was amusing to see the leisurely manner in which they proceeded; spending the greater part of their time in contemplating each stone on its being deposited, and hesitating long before any volunteered to bring another to the spot. Nor were they at all discomposed by the conviction that all their labour must be renewed after the first *speat* which would infallibly, as they allowed, wash away every vestige of their rude structure. The expense of a few planks would have served the purpose effectually; but this definite mode of completing their work would not suit the loitering habits of the Highlanders, who habitually verify the old adage, that "lazy people take the most pains."

Lagg bay is prettily wooded. The coast from hence to the north-east extremity of Jura is bleak and bare, excepting the promontories, which are bold, rugged, defended from the inroads of the sea by outworks of rocks, and richly crowned by copse

wood feathering to the water's edge, and protecting bays, containing farms and smiling cultivation within their sheltered recesses. The points of Ardlossan and Kinuachtrach afford beautiful scenery. Of the merits of the eastern coast of Jura, no just idea could be formed by the more distant navigation of the sound. The farms between Lagg and Kinuachtrach are solely for sheep.

I landed here, and crossed over a mountain to view the celebrated Corryvraken. From the summit of the passage the sound of Jura resembles a large lake bounded by an irregular outline of promontories and deep bays gemmed with islands, and backed by distant mountains. The most conspicuous of the bays is immediately opposite, Loch Crinan, prettily diversified by islands, and distinguished by the prominent tower of Duntroon Castle. The whirlpool is formed, as far as it can be ascertained, by the confluence of the two currents of the flood-tide, the one of which flows along the western coast of Jura, the other, of unfathomed depth, and obstructed in some places by unseen rocks, rushes through the sound between Scarba and Jura, as through a funnel, so much are its dimensions contracted in one part. The struggles of the mighty torrent with its many obstacles could be now distinguished only by boiling eddies, as the tide had not yet got in: but when the mingling streams happen at the spring-flood, at the first quarter of

the moon, to encounter a gale from the north-west, the scene is represented as beyond description terrific,—the sea appearing to writhe as in the convulsive agonies of a death-struggle, sometimes opening yawning gulfs of vast depth, and sometimes heaving aloft a pyramid of waters, which bursts in thunders on the adjacent shores, and overspreads the surface of the sea with a boundless volume of foaming breakers. The whirlpool derives its name from a Danish prince, who is said to have been promised the daughter of a Scottish king in marriage, on the hard condition of his riding out three successive tides in the gulf. Taking his station accordingly, he lashed his vessel by three cables to Jura and Scarba: two snapped, and the third, a woollen one, had not yet yielded, when the unfortunate gallant anticipated his probable fate by leaping in despair into the sea, and was swallowed up. His body was washed ashore, and was buried in a cave on the Jura coast, opposite to the whirlpool, where a mound eight feet long and three feet high still marks the spot of his supposed interment. A faithful gray dog followed his master overboard, and reached Scarba; but perished in the lesser Corryvraken, between that island and Lunga. The sound which separates these islands is still called the “Grey dog’s slap” (or passage). A story was told me of a vessel having drifted into the sound, and being deserted instantly by its crew, with the

exception of a boy, who was asleep, and did not perceive the absence of his companions, or the peril of his situation, till he had arrived on the verge of the gulf. With much presence of mind, he cast a tub to the raging monster, which was swallowed up, and satisfied the cravings of his appetite. The waves closed upon it and afforded a smooth passage to the vessel.

CHAPTER XXIV.

CRAIGNISH CASTLE, DUNTROON CASTLE, GARVE-
LOCH ISLES, LISMORE, LOCHNELL, TYANHUILT,
BEN-CRUACHAN, APPIN, BEN-NEVIS, PARALLEL
ROADS.

THERE is a ferry from Kinuachtrach, to the main-land. On the shore of a little bay, at the entrance of a rugged valley, stands the large square tower of Craignish Castle: a building 600 years old, which has been lately fitted up and rendered a commodious residence, by Mr. Campbell: the walls are very thick: beneath are subterraneous apartments, and a deep well, once used as a dungeon. The entrance to this gloomy place is still barred by the old iron gate. The shores of the bay, and the brows of the surrounding hills, are garnished with fine wood, forming the fore-ground of a landscape embracing Loch Craignish on one side, and the sound, distant mountains, islands, and the western ocean.

The situation of Duntroon Castle, south of Craignish, at the entrance of the Crinan-canal, is noble and picturesque, overhanging the sea, and backed by knolls, rocks, and wood. Mr. Malcolm, the proprietor, has added to it some castellated appendages. His grandfather purchased it, and the

possessor has become, by the progressive enlargement of his estate, fourth in the list of proprietors of Argyleshire, the Duke of Argyle, Lord Breadalbane, and Mr. Campbell, of Isla, maintaining the precedence, in the order mentioned. Nearly the whole of Argyleshire is still in the hands of the Campbells. Mr. Malcolm is said to have bought the estates of ten persons of that name.

As the Scottish Gentry formerly disdained commercial employments, and considered themselves superior to the clerical and other liberal professions,—their only portion was land, and their pursuits were agriculture, the chase, and war. In this manner, the county of Argyle was distributed almost entirely among Campbells, who branched off from the Duke's ancestors; and Lanarkshire amongst Hamiltons, younger sons of the Dukes of Hamilton. The latter have gradually, in a great measure, disappeared, being situated in a part of the country more liable to transfer of property. The Campbells still maintain their ground.

Mr. Malcolm has reclaimed some thousands of acres of bog visible from his residence, with great success. Agriculture in Argyleshire, in general, is said to be much neglected. The system of farming throughout this country is that of small allotments without leases. The farms vary in rent

from 16*l.* to 5*l.*, but some are large. The sheep-farms are often very extensive.

The navigation of the intricate channel between the western coast of Argyleshire, and the chain of islands which protects it from the swell of the ocean, a channel corresponding with the *inner sea* on the north-west coast of Norway, is difficult and dangerous, and to seamen not well acquainted with it, impracticable. The multiplicity and complexity of its currents baffles calculation: whilst iron-bound coasts, rocks, shoals, and whirlpools, await, on all sides, the ill-fated vessel which has been unwarily committed to their rapid and tortuous course. The traveller in quest of *the sublime*, may, in this *inner sea*, indulge his taste to the utmost, or, in other words, may enjoy the spectacle of nature in her most fearful aspects, with little personal risk, provided he be furnished with a stout boat, sound tackling, skilful hands, and a stiff breeze, which may give him full command over the otherwise scarcely manageable currents.

The immediate entrance from the Crinan Canal to the narrow, and consequently most hazardous, part of the channel, is the Dorrismore or great gate; a passage between Craignish Point, and a small adjacent island. But inevitable is the doom of the boat which ventures through it, except at the lull of the tide, and in perfectly calm weather.

The first Comet, steamer, was wrecked by the whirlpool formed by the various currents which force their way through this portal. The second sunk in the Clyde; and no other vessel has ventured to assume the ill-omened name. The entrance from the opposite side of the channel, between the islands of Jura and Scarba, is guarded by the still more formidable Corryvraken, whose feelers twine around the coasts of these islands: while the lesser Corryvraken, between Scarba and Lunga, no less effectually bars that passage: a mass of breakers chafing and foaming between high, rugged, and overhanging rocks. The actual exit from the *inner sea*, between Lunga and the Garveloch Isles, is embarrassed by what is significantly called a *jobble of a sea*, not the conflict of two or three mighty streams contending for mastery, as in the other passages, but the desultory warfare of innumerable currents, which puts the skill of the steersman, and perhaps the tackling of his boat, to good proof. But the traveller is well repaid by the maritime scenery which here opens on his sight, perhaps the grandest and most picturesque afforded by any part of this channel, abounding in striking points of view. With the bold Garveloch Isles, the cliffs of Mull, and many other islands on his right, his eye may wander along the chain of islands on his left, from the rugged group of islets, rising in successive terraces on the north shore of Lunga,

—along the lofty precipices of Scarba,—Jura distinguished by its towering Paps,—and the distant Isla; whilst Colonsay and Oransay bound the south-western horizon.

The Garveloch group consists of four small islands. The form of the most northward is a truncated cone, once used as a fortress; and the terrace leading to it is constructed in the rock. The next island is the principal, and terminates abruptly to the northward, in a stupendous cliff. Another of the group, called the Holy Island, contains the scanty remains of a monastery formerly held in veneration.

There is a road along the coast from Oban to Loch Melfort, which passing through the beautiful and richly-wooded valley of Glengallon, is carried along the rocks of a picturesque glen, a work executed with much spirit, and at length opens on Loch Melfort, its wooded promontories and islands, but it affords no just impression of the scenery of this coast.

The most northern of the islands in the chain is Lismore, at the entrance of Loch Linnhe, celebrated in the heroic ages of Scottish history, subsequently in the annals of the excise, and up to a later, and very recent period, in the records of the Roman Catholic Church of Scotland, and at length, according to the ordinary course in the progressive developement of resources, in the returns of agricul-

tural statistics, as one of the most fertile of the Hebrides.

The college, episcopal mansion, or palace, residence of the Roman Catholic bishop of the western Isles, and chapel or cathedral, have just been deserted by the establishment, which has been removed, from insufficiency of funds for its maintenance, to Aberdeenshire.

The adjacent district of Appin is divided among wealthy proprietors, and can scarcely be rivalled in the beauty of its scenery. An eminence in the grounds of General Campbell, of Loch Nell, commands an extensive panoramic prospect. One is at a loss while surveying it, whether to admire more the magnificent assemblage of mountains, woods, and castles, of lakes, bays, islands, and the distant ocean, which it embraces, or the endless diversity of exquisitely beautiful landscapes which they present on every side to the view, and which, illuminated by a southern sun, might challenge comparison with the finest maritime scenery of Italy or perhaps of Greece. General Campbell's house stands in a grove of high trees, in a sheltered side of a promontory of Loch Linnhe. The garden adjoins it, containing a large hydrangea, on which were counted this year 663 flowers. The promontory is covered with wood, affording cover for numerous roe-deer. Some of the timber is very fine, especially silver-firs and beeches. The silver-firs yield

the palm to those at Roseneath, which are seventeen feet in circumference.

The extensive estate of Loch Nell could not have devolved on proprietors more disposed to discharge all the duties of their station than General and Mrs. Campbell. When General Campbell first put an end to the old pernicious system of tenantry in common, he had to struggle with the prejudices of the occupants, who formed a conspiracy to thwart his plan: it was disclosed by one of the parties concerned, who afterwards died of grief, occasioned by the anger of his confederates. The Highlanders yield if led, but prove ungovernably stubborn when driven; and General Campbell adapting his conduct to their temper, has gradually induced them to adopt his various improvements. The numerous cottages of his tenants are neatly built by himself, furnished with the Lothian or English chimney, which projects from the wall, allowing a snug corner on each side of the fire, and they are provided with gardens. The general and his lady have prevailed on nearly all their tenants to make use of the chimneys, and habit has so reconciled them to the practice, that it is observed that those who have adopted it cannot tolerate the smoky atmosphere of other cabins. In his cottages General Campbell has quartered many old soldiers, who served abroad with him in the 91st regiment, which he raised. Of the success with

which he has managed his people, a recent instance has occurred. An old burial-ground was inconveniently situated in the line of a newly projected road; and the difficulty consisted in removing it without raising the prejudices and indignation of the people, who are singularly attached to the spot where their ancestors are deposited. General Campbell assembled them, stated the advantages to themselves and the public of the proposed alteration, and offered to them a piece of ground adjacent, leaving the decision to their own free choice. They complied without hesitation, and I saw them employed in removing the coffins.

The marked improvement of the religious state of this neighbourhood has been partly produced by schools, and partly by the zeal of Mrs. Campbell, in circulating the Scriptures,—of which the supply was previously very scanty,—so widely amongst the people, that they are to be found in almost every house. Mrs. Campbell opened a sale of Bibles at her own house, offering them at reduced prices. The people exhibited the greatest eagerness to become possessed of them, and resorted to Loch Nell, with their money in their hand, from remote Glens, till Mrs. Campbell disposed in this manner of 800 copies. The practice of domestic worship is observed occasionally, but principally on Sundays.

Tyanhuilt, on the south side of Conan Ferry,

belongs to General Campbell. The sacrifice of much of the extensive copse-woods between this place and the pass of Awe, covering a considerable tract of country to southward of Loch Etive and that river, to the neighbouring iron-furnaces of Bunawe, has been already alluded to. The scenery is yet more disfigured by the charring-mills, which are seen smoking amid the spreading scene of desolation. These woods were granted to an English company for the above works in the year 1754, on a lease of more than a hundred years, at 100*l.* per annum. They are now valued at 2000*l.* or 3000*l.* per annum, and have proved a most profitable undertaking to the company, as well as advantageous to the natives of the country, by affording them constant employment. The people occupied in wood-cutting or charring, are Highlanders. The boys in the neighbourhood make capital baskets and partitions for walls of wicker-work. The iron ore is brought from Lancashire to be smelted in the furnaces. The wood used is both oak and birch; the former is first stripped of its bark, which forms an inconsiderable part of the profit. The birch, which is about half the value of the oak, is charred together with the bark, which facilitates the process, and is of itself of no value. The charring-mills are rudely constructed in the copse, being made of circular enclosures of turf, covered with a basket-work, formed of the poles of

trees; and the air is admitted but partially, in order that the ignition may not be too rapid. The charcoal is bagged and conveyed to the smelting-houses in carts. The bark is stacked in a creel barn, made of wicker of any sort of copse-wood, and pervious to air.

The ascent of Ben Cruachan from this side is very steep, but smooth; but the highest region of the mountain from which the principal summits rise, is covered by loose blocks of granite. The eastern is somewhat higher than the western, attaining an elevation of 3390 feet. They are connected together by a narrow serrated ridge, rising in an unbroken and almost precipitous declivity from the pass of Awe, which forms a deep and dark fosse to this lofty rampart, a perfect “muni-
of rocks.”

The prospect from this noble mountain is very extensive, and perhaps not surpassed by that seen from any other in Scotland, as comprehending a vast range of land-scenery, and the most picturesque portion of the coast. On the east lies Loch Awe, in all its sinuous length, and Loch Fine is just visible; and beyond rise the mountains of Glencroe and Ben Lomond. The southern view is bounded by a very distant range of hills, probably on the borders of Lanarkshire, and stretches westward to the coast of Ayr, Arran, Cantyre, Isla, Jura, Colonsay, Scarba, and the Garveloch Isles, and numerous other lesser islands. The

intermediate region is composed of the interwoven summits of ridges, interspersed with small lakes and partially covered with wood ; while Mull and Rum prolong the chain of Islands, and the Sound and Lochs Linnhe, Eil, and Etive, wind below among the neighbouring mountains. Northward towers Ben Nevis, above a vast assemblage of huge round masses, heaved up in chaotic confusion, in the shape of graves, which fancy might represent as a desolate cemetery of giants of an elder world.

Mr. Downie has, in Appin, an estate of 80,000 acres, which he purchased of one of the Stuarts : he has some fine timber, and has planted extensively. Quartz abounds on the adjacent ridges ; large blocks of it strew the shore of Loch Linnhe. It is particularly gratifying to observe the universal prevalence of the spirit of improvement amongst the landlords. The cottages on their estates are built generally in the style of those of Sir James Riddell, on the opposite side of the Loch formerly mentioned.

Between Loch Leven and Glen Nevis, and in the surrounding country, there has been much depopulation to make room for sheep-farming ; and the remaining cottagers complain loudly of the new system. The sheep-farms in the neighbourhood of Ben Nevis are leased by preference to half-pay officers, as their half-pay affords security for the payment of their rent : and they are generally natives of the district, having served in the

78th and 92nd regiments, which were raised in it. The average rent of the sheep-farms is from 200*l.* to 300*l.* per annum; but sometimes far more. The leases are usually from nine to fifteen years.

The road is thickly inhabited between Glen Nevis and Fort-William: the cottagers are tenants of the Duke of Gordon, or Mr. Cameron; their dwellings are very poor; several were but sod huts. The windows were generally broken, and seldom repaired except by wood. Those to north of Ben Nevis are yet more wretched, mere heaps of soil. The cottagers in the glens near Fort-William prefer sending their children to the English school in that place, at higher cost, even when a Gaelic school is at hand. I observed in Glen Nevis a car used for carrying the hay: its construction is very simple,—two poles joined together by basket-work, and trailing along the ground far beyond the basket-work, support two upright poles joined together also in the same manner, thus preventing the hay placed on the first, which lies on an inclined plane, from falling back. This rude carriage can pass over rough ground unfit for wheels.

The river Nevis descends in cataracts from an elevation of 500 feet of the mountain-barrier at the head of the glen, and then flows along the base of the mountain, amidst beech, ash, fir, and alder.

The highest part of Ben Nevis rises from a level tract, partly covered with the only lake or deposit

of water on the mountain. It is to the want of reservoirs for the reception of the streams, and conveyance of them by a common outlet to the valley, that the south-west side of this mountain owes its peculiar and distinguishing characteristic,—that of being channelled by innumerable torrents. The summit is a vast irregular plain, entirely covered with fragments of porphyry, laid down in parts, where they are much broken, as smoothly as a Macadamized pavement. The view, though more extensive, is not so picturesque as that from Ben Cruachan. The north-east face of the mountain is formed by porphyritic cliffs, rising to the height of 1500 feet, divided into four buttresses: bristling with icicles, they presented a wintry aspect.

A glen, down which a torrent rushes over highly-polished beds of granite, separates these cliffs from the Red Cairn or Ptarmigan Hill.

Luckless but for the effect of habit would be the lot of those who dwell in the neighbourhood of a mountain which claims, in virtue of its supremacy, the right of levying contributions on the watery stores of every wind that blows. “A very *soft* day” was the expression with which our party was welcomed by a farmer to the shelter of his house, at the foot of the mountain, during a violent storm of rain and sleet, on one of the most tempestuous days which I ever recollect: while to our observations on the state of the weather he added, “Oh, sir, we have gales

all the year round here,—we know no difference.” His wife, when we declined taking her outstretched hand, as our hands were dripping with water, seized them, expressing astonishment at our offering such an apology to a Highlander, and wrung them dry.

Of the influence of mountains in attracting clouds I once witnessed a splendid instance, on the summit of Ben Lomond. It was free from mist; but a line of black clouds appeared advancing as in battle array from the west, and at length gathering around the summits of the numerous mountains on the opposite side of the lake, but leaving the interval quite clear. Descending some yards, I perceived the clouds disengaging themselves gradually from their temporary resting-places, and separately directing their course, borne along by a gentle breeze to the summit of Ben Lomond. Here they congregated into a dense compact mass, reddened by the beams of the setting sun, crowning the mountain as with a resplendent diadem, were again dislodged, and breaking into fragments, floated, like so many islands of the blest, towards the distant Grampians.

The river Spean is crossed by a bridge: near to this place is the farm-house of Keppoch, long the residence of a warlike and hot-blooded race of Macdonalds, one of whom

A village Hampden, that with dauntless breast
The little tyrant of his fields withstood,

fought a battle with the Macintoshes, at Mulroy, on a hill opposite, and checked their further attempts to invade his territory. Though only factors, the Macdonalds of Keppoch could always raise a regiment. The Keppoch of 1745 mustered his clansmen in the cause of the Pretender, and fell at their head at Culloden. His followers watched the opportunity of recovering his body, and buried it near to his residence. Some Irish families, Burkes and Boyles, yet remain in this district, tracing their descent from a colony of sixty soldiers, whom an Irish lady, married to a Highlander, brought as her marriage-portion. The Duke of Gordon's country extends along the southern bank of the Spean, in a direct line to Fochabers on the eastern coast.

Near this river are seen the famous Parallel Roads: three levels of sufficient breadth and smoothness for the passage of a carriage, continued uninterruptedly along both sides of the hills and glens of a valley twenty-four miles in length. A small interval separates the two upper; a much broader the middle and lowest: but by measurements carried on during some weeks by professor Playfair, Lord Webb-Seymour, and others, assisted by Macmillan, the Ben Nevis guide, it was ascertained, that not the slightest variation occurred in any one of the levels, the corresponding lines in the opposite sides of the valley exactly agreeing. It is obvious that water alone could have produced such

effects, and that the vast valley in which they are visible, must have originally been the receptacle of a lake, equalling Loch Ness in its dimensions, which finding successive outlets, fell from the first to the second, and from thence to a third level, and afterwards discharged its waters, probably through a glen near Roy Inn into the glen of the Spean, through which they passed to the sea, or another glen near to the Inn. The vulgar tradition respecting the Parallel Roads is, that they were made by the kings of Scotland for the purpose of hunting. That they were so used is probable; and the discovery of charcoal at great depth beneath the spot where the royal sportsmen are said to have roasted their venison, confirms the supposition. The range of Ben Nevis is finally terminated on this side by the peaked and craggy summit of Inch Faul, 800 feet lower than the highest summit.

CHAPTER XXV.

CANTYRE, TARBERT, HERRING-FISHERY, DOUNA-
VERDICH, THE MULL, CAMPBELTOWN, DISTIL-
LERIES, SECTS, CARRADALE, SADDANEL, SKIPNESS
CASTLE.

I RETURNED to Tarbert for the purpose of making the circuit of the large promontory of Cantyre. My frequent visits to this little port enabled me to acquire information respecting the habits of the fishermen of Tarbert, and the neighbouring coasts, an enterprising race who do not confine their operations to Loch Fine, but extend them along the Western coast, even as far as Lewis. They do not carry their fish to market, but adopt the more profitable and expeditious method of selling them to vessels, in which they are cured and conveyed to various parts. They are also barrelled both at Tarbert and Inverary. The outfit of a boat is expensive; the cost of it, including rigging, varies from 30*l.* to 50*l.*, and upwards, and may be estimated, on the average, at 40*l.*: and the price of a set of nets is 30*l.*, or 5*l.* to a piece or barrel, of which six form a net. The usual length of the boat is twenty feet; it is built at Tarbert, Greenock, or Rothesay. It is furnished with three masts, a mainsail, a foresail, and a jib: and part of the bow

of the boat is covered by boarding or an awning, in which bedding is placed. Where the awning occurs, it is occasionally removed, and instead of the bedding a pan of coals is placed, on which the fisherman cooks his provisions when in harbour, or at sea, when the weather permits. Each boat is usually furnished with three men, one of whom is the master, who defrays the whole cost, and receives a double share of the profits of the fishery. He is also exempted by law from impressment. The proprietors of boats subscribe so much by the week to a fund, a species of insurance, out of which they are indemnified for the loss of their nets. The measure used is called a maize, containing 500 herrings: the greatest number I have heard being taken at one time was forty-one maize, the maize then selling at 10s.

The nets are cast at sun-set, and always on the right side of the boat, in conformity to the supposed injunction of our Saviour to St. Peter. The time of sailing is also governed by many superstitious notions, but a cloudy evening is the best omen. Immediately afterwards, if the weather permit, the fishermen light their fire and cook their supper, consisting of fish, potatoes, oat-cake, molasses, or porridge. But on stormy nights they fast, being unable to cook their provisions, relieving their fatigue by whisky; and on their return in the morning, invariably receive two drams each from

the purchaser of their fish. Cold and hungry, they are often affected by the spirits, and sustain the habitual excitement by repairing to the public-house; thus acquiring habits of intoxication. There are no less than twenty public-houses in Tarbert, which must be partly attributed to its being a great thoroughfare. The superintendent of the distillery of West Tarbert informed me that the fishermen carried out whisky to sea, observing emphatically, "Sir, the Tarbert man must have his dram, let the world sink or swim."

On the whole, however, though, occasionally, 'drunkenness may be seen, accompanied with riotous conduct, which must be laid partly to the charge of strangers, the clergy have succeeded in counteracting, in a great measure, the natural tendency of the habits of the fishermen; and the excellent and ancient practice of prayer is not uncommon. After supper, the fishermen not unfrequently kneel down to prayer, and sing a hymn, and when at home adopt the same rule*. The

* Martin has given the ancient impressive form of prayer used by the fishermen; as contained in the Irish Liturgy, printed in the year 1566.

THE MANNER OF BLESSING THE SHIP, WHEN THEY PUT
TO SEA.

The Steersman says,—Let us bless our ship.

The Answer by all the Crew,—God the Father bless her.

Steersman.—Let us bless our ship.

fishermen of Inverary said that reading was general among them, and most of them possessed Bibles. Of their respect for the Sabbath-day a proof occurred some time ago : they stedfastly refused to carry the baggage of a laird, residing in a neighbouring island, across the isthmus on that day. The natives of Tarbert always return to their cottages ; the strangers live in their boats, cook their provisions, and sometimes celebrate their domestic worship on board. The harbours and coves are so numerous, that boats are rarely lost. I was in-

Answer.—Jesus Christ bless her.

Steersman.—Let us bless our ship.

Answer —The Holy Ghost bless her.

Steersman.—What do you fear, since God the Father is with you ?

Answer.—We do not fear anything.

Steersman.—What do you fear, since God the Son is with you ?

Answer. We do not fear anything.

Steersman.—What are you afraid of, since God the Holy Ghost is with you ?

Answer.—We do not fear anything.

Steersman.—God the Father Almighty, for the love of Jesus Christ his Son, by the comfort of the Holy Ghost, the one God, who miraculously brought the children of Israel through the Red Sea ; and brought Jonas to land out of the belly of the whale ; and the apostle, St. Paul, and his ship to safety from the troubled raging sea, and from the violence of a tempestuous storm ; deliver, sanctify, bless, and conduct us peaceably, calmly, and comfortably through the sea to our harbour, according to his divine will ; which we beg, saying, Our Father, &c.

formed that any disputes arising among the fishermen were adjusted by arbitration, three seniors of the port performing this duty ; an excellent practice, similar to that which prevails in some instances among the miners of Cornwall, who, though enjoying the jurisdiction of their own independent courts, the Stannary, still are so satisfied with the more amicable mode of adjusting their differences, that, as a respectable captain of one of the largest mines stated to me, an appeal to law was scarcely ever known. The period for commencing and terminating the fishery was formerly prescribed by Act of Parliament.

The huts inhabited by the fishermen at Tarbert and the neighbourhood are usually very poor. The few tenants of West Tarbert depend on the transit of goods for subsistence. The residence of mechanics in villages is always beneficial, as setting the example of building and fitting up houses in better style, independently of other advantages.

On one occasion, I found the harbour of East Tarbert in a state of much excitement, as a wedding was expected. The people were all standing at their doors with smiling countenances, and a perpetual discharge of muskets and fowling-pieces from different parts of the harbour greeted the ear. Soon, a procession, preceded by a bagpipe, descended the hill, and some of their train returned from their pieces the salute of their fellow-towns-

men. A young fisherman was the bridegroom, and the whole party moved to the church, where the minister delivered a prayer and exhortation in Gaelic. The friend of the bridegroom took off his glove, and a young girl performed the same office for the bride, and the ceremony concluded with their clasping their hands together. There was an immediate adjournment to the public-house, which became the scene of much festivity.

The scenery on the western side of Cantyre is not worth notice. Historical celebrity belongs to the point of Dounaverdich on the south side of this promontory. It is connected with the shore by a narrow isthmus. The bones of the Highlanders, Macdonalds, massacred here, may still be seen, and their skeletons are often dug up. They had retreated to this promontory and fortified it, driven by the Earl of Argyle and General Leslie, who commanded the Covenanters, and had in charge the conquest of Cantyre, but at length the water which supplied them was cut off, and they were butchered. There are several traditions respecting the massacre. One of them is the following: a fine young Highlander sprang from the rock to reach a boat which contained some of the fugitives, when Argyle, compassionating him, interceded with Leslie in his behalf. His name was Stuart, he proved grateful to his protector, and became his first factor; for by this conquest Argyle became

possessed of Cantyre, and divided it amongst the Campbells.

The bay of Dounaverdich affords good shelter to vessels during northerly winds. Opposite, separated from the mainland by a sound through which a strong tide rushes, is Sanda, a small fertile and rocky island. The coast road to the Mull affords picturesque views of this island, of the coast of Galloway, and of the noble Ailsa. An old chapel and burying-ground, containing ancient monuments, on the shore, add to the romantic character of the scenery. High rocks, perforated by caves, overhang the road, which passes a bay to Carskay.

The Mull, which may be ascended from Carskay, is a huge pile of mountains. It is granted by the Duke of Argyle, on a lease of nineteen years, to a commercial company of Campbeltown, as a sheep-farm, and subdivided into smaller farms. Three shepherds reside upon it: within a few years it was inhabited by twenty families. They lived well, being plentifully supplied with meat, milk, and fish, but never tasting vegetables or meal, and were a stouter and better-conditioned race than the present. They paid no rent, and did no work. Their ruined abodes are visible near the shore. The summit commands an extensive view, embracing the Isle of Man, and much of the Irish coast. My guide showed me his abode, a very small cottage, consisting of a single apartment; the fire was

on the floor, and the space between it and the side wall was filled up with a large wicker-work basket, tenanted by a hog. On the other side was a stack of peat, whilst against the opposite wall were placed the bed for the family, and a sty for two pigs separated by a partition. The intermediate area, half filled with furniture, was preserved for the daily use of the poor man and his family.

Campbeltown is a neatly-built town, on the shore of a pleasant bay. Its main street is adorned with a town-house * with tower and spire; and by the beautiful cross brought from Oransay: small human figures, foliage, and a Saxon inscription are engraven on it, specifying the individuals by whom it was erected. The suburbs of the town are ornamented with villas. The depth of water in the excellent harbour is from five to thirteen fathoms; and the largest vessel could enter it at any state of the tide. But the advantages are much diminished

* The gaol is very deficient. The *criminal* part of it consists of three cells on the ground-floor, all of them ill aired and ill lighted, and two of them excessively damp. In none of them can a prisoner be confined for any length of time without detriment to his health. There is no airing-ground, and the only place in which the prisoners can have exercise is a small passage, between the external grating of the gaol, and the cells which communicate with the open street. There were no prisoners in confinement when the commissioner made his visit.

The gaol for *debtors* is in the upper part of the town-house; the town-hall and court-room forming an intermediate floor

by the difficulty of access. Its security is owing partly to the island, Avar, at its entrance, which may be reached at low water dry-shod, from the south shore. The passage for large vessels is therefore confined to the north side, and they can scarce make good their entrance, except with a leading wind. The island rises on the south side into high rocks.

Campbeltown owed its growth to the herring-fishery, and is now much enriched by the multiplication of legal distilleries, to which the augmentation in the value of land is greatly attributable. There was but a single distillery four years ago in Campbeltown; there are now fourteen, and Campbeltown pays between 20,000*l.* and 30,000*l.* in duty to the excise on its distillation. The consequent rise in the price of barley was considerable: it increased from 16*s.* per boll, or quarter, in 1822, to its actual amount of 37*s.*, while the price of oats

between it and the criminal cells. It consists of but two apartments, in one of which the commissioner found a male prisoner and two females. This part of the gaol is not quite so objectionable as the other; but it is too limited in extent, and it is also extremely ill ventilated. There is no airing-ground, and not any room for the prisoners.

The sheriff and magistrates in attendance spoke of the gaol as evidently insecure; and the former stated that he had had occasion to make no less than five or six reports against the state of it. He considered it as perhaps the worst gaol in Scotland, after the old gaol at Rothesay.—*Report from Commissioners on Municipal Corporations in Scotland.*

has remained stationary at 24s. or 25s. during the same period. The manufacture of whisky here has been greatly improved, and may now contend with that of Isla, to which it has been hitherto considered inferior. In fact Campbeltown has gradually drawn to itself the supply of Glasgow and other towns of the Clyde. Its vicinity to the principal barley-lands of Cantyre renders its situation far preferable to that of Glasgow for the manufacture: and the easy and perpetual intercourse by steam-boats has brought the market to its doors. Every vessel of this description which now quits the harbour for the Clyde is freighted with spirits. The manufacture of spirits, and consequent trade, have influenced the import as well as export. Barley or bear, though it has become the staple produce of Cantyre is still insufficient for the supply of the distilleries*.

The joint operation of the legal distilleries, and of the excise, has been the diminution of the illicit trade, which is now almost extinct. It is still perpetuated in a limited degree on the hills of the western coast. Formerly malting was much carried on at Campbeltown, and proved a principal source of encouragement to smuggling, as those who were engaged in the illicit traffic brought their grain to be malted to the regular establishments, and paid for it after the sale of their whisky. Women had

* See *Appendix*, Note V. p. 425.

a large share in this traffic, and were notoriously continually drunken. The temptation to drinking it, where every one manufactured it, was irresistible; but few could pay the price for the purchased article. I have spoken of the little success which has attended the manufactures of Campbeltown.

The duke offers every encouragement to the building of villas and houses in the suburbs of Campbeltown, granting to those disposed to erect them five leases of nineteen years*. The usual term of his leases is nineteen years. The agreeable situation of the town, and the easy communication with the Clyde and coasts, will induce people to avail themselves of his liberality. But unfortunately Campbeltown has in a great measure lost its principal staple of trade,—the fishery,—for which the distilleries furnish an inadequate substitute. Formerly fleets were built here, and sent from hence on this trade: in a single year 30,000 barrels were exported; in 1820, 8000. The number now amounted to perhaps 2000. The decline is attributed to the withdrawing of the bounty, and to the innumerable losses at sea: but probably the great and rapid recent increase of Wick and other fisheries have mainly contributed to it.

The trees which adorn the shore of the bay were

* The duke has since ascertained that he is prevented by the provisions of the entail from granting leases beyond nineteen years.

planted about 150 years ago, by a Duchess of Argyle, who was extremely partial to Cantyre, fixed her residence chiefly at Campbeltown, and inhabited a house on a site now occupied by a small farm-house to which, however, it was much inferior. This lady was mother of the great Duke John, and she is said to have adopted the following singular method of acquiring, for the duke, possession of the estates of the different proprietors, Campbells, to whom Argyle, after his conquest of Cantyre, had granted them. On pretence of revising, as the story goes, she got into her hands and destroyed the charters of these unsuspecting people. Thus the Argyle family revoked their original grants. Campbell of Kildalloig, ancestor of the present proprietor of this estate, pleasantly situated on the outside of the bay, owed the preservation of it to the shrewdness of a servant, who suspecting the intentions of the duchess, ran off, carrying away his master's charter, and restored it not to him, till the fraud became apparent. The family of this man were, till within few years, employed, in grateful recollection of his services, by the family at Kildalloig. The duchess is said to have associated with herself, in her retreat, several young ladies of rank, whom she watched with Argus-eyed vigilance, lest they should stoop to alliance with the lairds of Cantyre. Impatient of restraint, they eluded her

observation, and are said to have preferred humble freedom to splendid chains. The duke has not inherited his ancestor's predilection for Cantyre, for he has never visited it but once, about twenty-two years ago.

The present tenant of the farm of which I am speaking, has been agent to the duke during twenty-five years. He is the only remnant of a small English colony, being the son of one of twenty farmers from the north of England, whom the late duke introduced, placing them on farms for the purpose of instructing the people in a better system of agriculture. With the exception of himself, the whole race has disappeared, through deaths, disputes with the factors, or with the natives through mutual jealousies. The duke introduced no Scottish Lowlanders. The farmer himself was born at Newcastle, and has passed fifty years in Cantyre.

Campbeltown comprehends four combined parishes, and has two kirks, both within the town, served by two ministers. In one English is preached: in the other Gaelic. The ministers of the kirk receive between 200*l.* and 250*l.* each per annum. There is a chapel belonging to the Relief, and also another to the Roman Catholics, attended almost exclusively by Irish settlers. The people of Campbeltown and its neighbourhood are divided into two distinct classes; generally distinguished as Highlanders and Lowlanders; the

former belonging to the Kirk, the latter to the Relief; the former speaking Gaelic, the latter English, though the gradual diffusion of English has tended in a great measure to obliterate the difference. The Relief are much less numerous than the Kirk. They have no chapel in Argyleshire, except at Campbeltown and Southend, and very few of their persuasion except in these parishes. They are the remnant of a colony of Covenanters, introduced during the religious wars by Argyle; and it is singular that to this day they steadily maintain their separate existence, names, religion, and associations, though some Highlanders have joined their communion. They intermarry almost exclusively, and bury their dead in a separate cemetery near Campbeltown; though the Roman Catholics, less bigoted in this respect, mingle their dead promiscuously with those of the Kirk in the cemetery of Kilkerran. In the burial-ground of Southend, a stream separates the dead of the Kirk and of the Relief. In this respect, however, they resemble the Highlanders, who are buried together as much as possible in reference to their clans. They have also their own distinct traditions. But the chief difference, for a long time, between the two sects, was the language. The Relief belonged to the Kirk till about sixty years ago, when they quitted it on account of the Duke of Hamilton having appointed a minister

whom they did not approve, about the time at which the Great Secession took place throughout Scotland, on the score of patronage. They were then possessed of all the malting-business, and secured the monopoly of this lucrative employment by admitting none but persons of their own persuasion to a share in it. The inducement was so strong that it attracted a few Highlanders to their number. They are characterized by the people as very strict in their religious tenets, looking down somewhat superciliously on others, and also extremely shrewd in their worldly affairs, and more cautious than the Highlanders, of which proof is afforded by their having obtained possession of nearly all the best farms near Campbeltown, and being an opulent body. They are very scrupulous in the selection of their ministers, and prompt in dismissing them, if dissatisfied with them. One was lately discharged for presuming to marry the woman of his choice, in preference to one whom they had marked out for him. The practice of choosing the minister attracts many to the sect. Their minister is well-paid.

There are some Haldanites in Cautyre: their ministers preach sometimes in the open air. The different sects live amicably together: the Catholic priest is on social terms with the Presbyterian clergy: his congregation consists chiefly of Irish, and some few Highlanders. I have already adverted

to the fact, that on occasions of charity-sermons, the ministers of the respective congregations, till within few years, attended each other's churches. The practice of domestic worship is becoming more general in Campbeltown, and its neighbourhood.

The eastern coast of Cantyre is more wooded and picturesque than the western: the heights of Arran and Ailsa form prominent features in the views which it affords. The old castle of Saddael is a fine square white tower, machicolated and corniced, standing on the beach beneath a high wooded bank. Buildings have been added to it, too evidently composed of materials withdrawn from the neighbouring monastery, as the ornamental tracery proves. The monastery is situated up the glen in the midst of an extensive cemetery in the sequestered recesses of a spacious grove of high ash and other trees:

A lowly dell, a sad and shady ground.

A torrent descending from the neighbouring mountains flows through it, augmenting by the hoarse murmurs of its cataracts, the gloomy solemnity of the scene. Of the monastery, some walls, arches, and door-ways alone remain, rough and destitute of architectural interest or beauty. Some ancient monuments of Macdonalds are spread around.

At Carradale point is a circular knoll, presenting externally a regularly-formed surface, but within

a confused, but well-compacted mass of artificial rock-work, one of the best specimens of the vitrified forts, illustrating the design of the rude architects, which clearly was to imitate the work of nature, as being more solid and secure than that of art, by reducing the materials which the coast afforded to the consistency of rock-work by fusion. The whole structure then became one compact mass, and not composed of separate fragments cemented together by masonry.

Skipness Castle consists of a quadrangular outer wall, furnished externally with a small Gothic gateway, and internally with windows and ruined staircases: it has a tower; another was pulled down to supply materials for the house, 200 years ago. The inhabited part of the castle was the common square tower built in the corner of a court. In plan it resembles Dunstaffnage, and the court was appropriated to farming purposes. The chapel of the monastery of St. Brannan stands near the shore. It is roofless, but the walls, gateways, and Gothic windows, are still preserved: the monuments are not worthy of notice. This was once a holy spot, being the burial-place of the above saint from which circumstance the Sound of Kilbrannan derives its name.

A mansion, the residence of Mrs. Campbell, of Skipness, is near to it. Arran is seen to more advantage from the road between Clunaig and

Skipness, than from any other quarter. The long, sloping shores of the southern part of the island become concealed by the noble assemblage of mountains at its northern extremity, shooting up into rugged ridges of broken peaks, exceeded only in the Hebrides, in picturesque outline, by the solitary range of the Coolin, when it first bursts on the view from the promontory of Strathaird.

The principal proprietor of Cantyre is the Duke of Argyle: except the duke and two or three others, it is divided among landlords of 1000*l.* per annum. Almost the whole of the interior of Cantyre, from Tarbert to the Mull, excepting the fertile valley between Campbeltown and Machrihanish Bay, is laid under sheep: a few black cattle are raised. Cantyre is happily provided both with lime and sea-wrack; the latter is now sold by the maritime proprietors.

The old system of subdivision of farms, without leases, prevails in part, and is evidenced by the want of enclosures. The farms, in some places, average from 150 to 200 acres, and the farm-houses are seen at intervals, each with its cluster of conical corn-stacks arranged in neat order, resembling Hottentot encampments; and sometimes surrounded by trees. The stacks vary in size, from five quarters to twenty, according to the quality of the farmers' crops, or the necessity of expediting the process from the apprehension of bad weather.

The small size of the stacks is required by the precariousness of the climate, and the apprehension of the corn heating, if put up wet. The hay is placed in large stacks. The practice of sweating it, as in England, is unknown. These two circumstances produce the excessive delay in gathering it in. The ears of corn are placed within: and the stack is topped with some erect sheaves, forming the cone: and the whole is thatched with wisps of straw; and never suffers injury from the weather.

The farm-houses are generally, throughout Cantyre, old and poor habitations, far behind the general improvement visible in this part of the country. The entrance is usually through the byre, which is a continuation of the house in the same line: the fire is placed on the middle of the floor, contained in a grate, either square or shaped like a bowl, and raised a little above the ground, a custom peculiar to Cantyre. They are without lofts, probably as the country furnishes no poles, and are cold, as the thatched roof forms their only covering. There are some few farm-houses in the modern style, indicating the slow growth of improvement.

The cottages in Cantyre are generally respectable, and the cottars have usually kail-yards, and pasture for a cow, but there is a marked distinction between these and the farm-houses. Fifty years

ago, before the improvements commenced, the houses of the farmers were on a footing with the poorest of the present cottagers. The barbarous practice of bleeding cattle in the spring, for the purpose of making cakes of their coagulated blood, was not uncommon, twenty years ago, as in the Lowlands: the wretched beasts were so reduced by it in strength, that it became necessary to lift them up: and "being at the lifting" formed a part of the farmer's business. Works on agriculture, so much read in the Lowlands, are little applied to in Cantyre. The farmers have adopted the Lowland style of living.

CHAPTER XXVI.

ARRAN, MOUNTAINS, BAYS, AGRICULTURE, RELIGION, CUSTOMS, CUMBRAY, BUTE.

FROM Cantyre to Arran is an hour's sail. In point of gloomy grandeur no British bay surpasses Loch Ranza, in Arran: dark ridges hem it in, and an ancient castle, formerly an occasional residence of the Scottish monarchs, occupies in the midst of it, a central and commanding position, on a green projecting slip of land. Exposed alike to the south-east wind and the blasts from the mountains, its excellent anchorage is of little use to vessels. Its shores are cultivated.

The passage over the noble mountains, which form the distinguishing feature of the island, from Loch Ranza to Brodick, embraces some of the grandest and most Alpine scenery in Scotland. The first remarkable point which is reached from this side, is a lofty granitic ridge, or rather wall, of horse-shoe shape, enclosing the deep and dark valley of Glen Sannox. This ridge shoots up abruptly at intervals into pinnacles, the highest of which is but four feet lower than Goatfell, and is called, from its peculiarly castellated form, Castle Abhal, (signifying Ptarmigan.) The interval between this and the next peak is the Ceumna Calliach, or

the step of the old hag. From the summit of Castle Abhal are seen another pinnacle, called from its shape the Comb; Goatfell towering above it rugged and steep; and the further peaks of Ben Noosh.

The Alpine character of the scene was heightened by a recent fall of snow, which lay four inches deep on the mountains, and by passing snow-storms, which the north-wind, rising at noon, according to the prediction of the guide, drove furiously before it, gradually scattering the dense array of clouds which enveloped the horizon, and discovering in all its extent a magnificent panoramic prospect, embracing the coast of Ireland, Sanda, Cantyre, Isla, the paps of Jura—now capped with snow,—Mull, Ben Cruachan, the mountains of Glencroe and Ben Lomond, the winding shores of Loch Fine and the Clyde, Bute and its Kyle, the Cumbrays, Ayrshire, Ailsa, and the Mull of Galloway, encircling the majestic pedestal on which we stood.

A pass between Ben Noosh and the Comb conducts to Goatfell. An affecting circumstance lately occurred on the latter mountain. The wife of a small farmer, of Thundergay, on the western shore of Arran, had set out from home with the intention of carrying a blanket to her son, who had just married and resided at Brodick, as a wedding present. She mistook her route and climbed a steep pass, by which, but for an unhappy accident, she

might, though with toil, have reached her destination. Her son, not seeing her, concluded she had deferred her visit; and at her home it was supposed that she was safely lodged under her son's roof. A fortnight elapsed before her absence was discovered; and she was at length found dead at the highest point of the pass, wrapped in the bridal blanket, in which, as the guide observed, she had composed herself, that she might die decently, her head leaning on her hand, holding a piece of bread. The cause of her catastrophe was the fracture of her thigh-bone.

Goatfell is on this side steep and sandy, and channelled by torrents. We had just reached the ridge which forms the summit of the mountain, the highest point of which is 2945 feet, when a whirlwind of snow on one of the peaks to windward indicated the approach of a blast which at once prostrated us; and we remained clinging to the rocks for some minutes. My guide stood aghast for some time after it had passed, and then broke his silence by a characteristic observation, "I never saw the like before; I am sure that all the wind in the glen had gathered up to go thegither through that slap (pass)." And afterwards adverting to the peril, he made a remark no less indicative of the religious disposition of the people of Arran: "The Almighty preserved us, and He will preserve those that depend on Him, and do not fight against Him."

No conception of the grandeur of the Arran mountains can be formed by the usual ascent: the scenery on the west and south sides of Goatfell being comparatively tame.

The rich plantations, on the shore of Brodick Bay, contrast agreeably with the desolate scenery of the mountains: for between Loch Ranza and this bay, excepting the villages on the shores of each, not a hut is visible, nor tree, nor shrub, with the exception of heather and juniper. They abound with grouse and red deer: we saw an eagle hovering over the summit of Castle Abhal.

Brodick Bay is open. Its shores are crowned with smiling cultivation, neat farm-houses and cottages, deep glens penetrating to the recesses of the mountains; and on the north side, by extensive plantations, clothing the hill and enclosing the castle, an old residence of the Dukes of Hamilton towering above the wood. "This castle," says Playfair, "was surprised by the partisans of Bruce, A.D. 1306,—demolished in 1456—rebuilt by James the Fifth, and garrisoned by Cromwell." Its ancient fine walls remain; its apartments are dismantled, but they have been occupied by the present duke, and might be rendered comfortable. The village is neat, and the farm-houses and cottages are respectable, being occupied during the summer-months by lodgers from Glasgow and other places, who resort here and to Lamlash Bay for sea-bathing.

The Duke, being desirous of preserving the game in Arran, does not much encourage the residence of strangers. In the neighbourhood of Brodick are two standing stones, one of which, in a field, is twelve feet high,—a perfect obelisk: the other, by the wood-side, is somewhat smaller. There are other similar remains in the Island.

Lamlash Bay, guarded at its entrance by Holy Island, a huge black, bare mass, would afford room for the whole British Navy. The anchorage is good, as the ground consists of blue clay, and it is improved by chains; but vessels are so much exposed to the wind, that they sometimes run aground, or are driven to sea during heavy gales.

The whole of Arran, excepting two small estates, belongs to the Duke of Hamilton. Captain Fullerton, proprietor of one of these, worth 300*l.* per annum, has inherited it, in an uninterrupted descent, from the time of the conquest of Scotland by Robert Bruce, who hoisting his standard in Arran, received support from his ancestor, and rewarded him by the grant of it: the original charters are preserved.

When Captain Fullerton first commenced a new agricultural system, he could not persuade the Islanders of the possibility of sowing before the then usual time, viz. in April. The works of the field were then performed entirely by women, as the men confined their labours to the fishery, and passed their winters in complete idleness.

The produce of Arran has been doubled during the last fourteen years, by the improvement in cultivation, which dates from that period, and which has taken place chiefly on the enlargement of farms. Much barley is exported to Campbeltown to supply the distilleries, the only distillery erected in Arran having been disused. The inferiority of the cattle of this island is ascribed to small farms and insufficient feeding; the average rental of farms being from 10*l.* to 30*l.*, with the exception of some few which reach to 100*l.* 200*l.* and 300*l.* The farmers are consequently, in general, little above the level of common labourers. The Duke encourages the reclamation of moor-land by bounties. I saw a tract formerly let to six people, who cultivated very little of it, and grazed the rest. It was divided at the period of general improvement, into twelve allotments, each of which now pays 5*l.* to 10*l.* rent.

The neighbourhood of Glasgow, and the visits of strangers, have rendered the farm-houses and cottages of Arran, in general, superior to those of Cantyre. But the same absurd system obtains here, as in some other parts of the Highlands, of repairing windows with wood, pane by pane, till the gradual extinction of light renders necessary the use of glass. The people appear to have taken a hint from the modern mode of operating for the cataract, by deferring the removal of the film till the sight of

both eyes is perfectly extinguished. The use of sashes would prevent the damage which is rectified by the bungling and expensive method of repairing alluded to.

The naval and merchant service has afforded a continual resource to the people of Arran: nearly 200 persons lately took their departure to America, from Glen Sannox, on its being laid under sheep; the Duke of Hamilton having allotted to each family a portion of land, obtained from government, together with the sum of 5*l*.

The farmers, though in poor circumstances, never suffer distress, as they are much inclined to afford each other mutual assistance and support. Each town, or little cluster of small farms, has usually one or two old persons whose subsistence depends on the contributions of the community: these are persons whom a large farmer would employ in any chance-work, or support, if too old. The duke maintains a few pensioners, allowing them cottage and land at 1*l*. 1*s*. rent. This system is pursued in different parts of the Highlands. Lord Breadalbane has about a hundred. Both in Arran and Cantyre, the church-collections are decreasing: the people adopting the spreading opinion that the heritors are bound to support the poor.

The disposition of the people of Arran is strongly religious. Domestic worship, which is by no means general in Cantyre, is almost universal amongst them.

and the Sriptures are so generally diffused amongst them, that they are fastidious in the choice of editions. They are, in general, well instructed, and possess, as in the Lowlands, small libraries of religious books, which they lend to one another. The following is a sample of the books which I found in the cottage of an old sailor:—*Calvin's Institutes*, *Henry's Bible*, *Sermons by the Commentators*, (C. W. Guthrie, Bruce, Welwood, R. Cameron, D. Cargill, A. Pendon, A. Shield,) and *Boston's Fourfold State*. He conversed on the prophetical parts of Scripture, and referred more especially to the prophecies of the Old Scottish divines, expressing his persuasion that good men were endowed with the gift of prophecy, though they could not exactly fix the period at which their predictions would be verified.

The religious habits of the people are promoted by their assemblage at each other's houses, for religious exercises, consisting of singing, reading, expositions, and addresses. As these meetings are frequent and protracted, they occasionally become polemical, and afford scope for the ostentatious display of learning, intellectual gladiatorship, fanaticism, and repugnance to church-government and discipline. There are also lay preachers. I accidentally became acquainted with the head of these, an old man, named Mackinnon, who is considered the patriarch of Arran. He had been very much

reduced in his circumstances, by the transfer of his farm to other hands, and occupied a small cottage and piece of land. He was formerly wont to preach in a large cave, on the west-coast of the Island, called the King's Cove, as having harboured Robert Bruce for some days before he raised his standard. On one occasion, a woman having fallen into convulsions,—for it is the prevailing notion among the more fanatical of the people of Arran, as among the old Wesleyans, and present Ranters, that some external bodily sign or convulsive emotion is a necessary sign of true repentance,—Mackinnon is said to have coolly observed, after they had ceased, “poor thing, what a struggle she had with the devil.” Most of these preachers object to education, or, as they designate it, unsanctified learning in the clergy; making it the subject of animadversion in their discourses. In compliance with the prejudices of his parishioners a minister of one of the parishes of Arran was lately compelled to part with his piano-forte, a *whistling manse* being, it must be presumed, next akin to a *whistling kirk*. They also add expressions significant of their peculiar opinions to the scriptural text: viz., to the passage “the Lamb of God who came to take away the sins of the world,” they supply the word “elect,” before “world.”

Arran is divided into two parishes; there are two churches and a chapel, to which a missionary is appointed.

Dissent has been almost extinguished by the removal of the inhabitants of Glen Sannox, to whom it was chiefly confined.

The morals of the people of Arran are well reported of; they are too poor to purchase spirits, and make very general use of tea: and it is the custom to prepare it for every visiter, as the dram was offered formerly; this ceremony is sometimes repeated three or four times in the day, and is said to be productive of idleness. The chief resource of the inhabitants is tobacco.

The vicinity of a town was proved, by the appearance of clocks. The carriage used occasionally in Arran is a very rough vehicle. One belonging to a minister, which conveyed me to church, was built like a bathing-machine, a small window at the entrance, and not on springs.

The entrance to the Clyde lies between Bute and the lesser Cumbray. It is a singular circumstance that one danger in this navigation formerly arose from the position of the old light-house, on the latter island. It was so much elevated above the sea, that the light was liable to be mistaken for a star. Another has been erected, of less pretension, but of more effectual use.

Nearly the whole of Bute belongs to the noble marquis, who derives his title from the island. His residence, Mount Stuart, the town of Rothesay, and the castle, are on the eastern side of the island.

The noble proprietor has adorned this and other parts of the island with flourishing plantations of fir, ash, oak, and plane, which are found to thrive after seven years' growth.

The climate of Bute is celebrated for its mildness, salubrity, and equability; and hence the island has been called the Devonshire or Cornwall of Scotland*.

The island abounds in agreeable and picturesque prospects. The castle of Rothesay is enclosed by a circular wall, furnished with round and fronted with square towers; and is supposed to have been built in A.D. 1100, as a frontier-garrison against the Norwegians†.

Bute affords a fair sample of the changes, economical and moral, which result from the use of steam navigation. It receives, from the increased facility

* A medical gentleman, residing in Bute, has kindly communicated to me the following particulars respecting the climate of that island. The mean temperature, as indicated by his observations, during ten years, from 1826 to 1835, inclusive, was 50° , and the lowest point to which the thermometer has fallen in Bute, during the last fifteen years, viz., at one, A.M., June 4th, 1821, was 20° *above* zero, whilst at the same time, it stood at 3° *below* zero in the Botanic Garden at Glasgow. The annual quantity of rain is from thirty-five to forty inches: the climate is free from fogs: the soil light and porous, partly wet and partly dry. The climate is decidedly advantageous in cases of pure asthma, incipient consumption, scrophulous and rheumatic disorders.

† A handsome county-hall, court-house, and jail have been lately erected.

of intercourse with Glasgow, its fair contingent of *salt-water people*; and the residence of these, as well as the augmented means of exportation, have enhanced the value of the agricultural produce of the island, of all kinds, especially that of the dairy and farm. On the other hand, the employment and habits of the people have been much altered; the natives, male and female, avail themselves of the steam-vessels to emigrate in quest of employment as servants, to which they are recommended by the reputation of good characters; while the young men do not, as formerly, betake themselves to the sea, as the small sailing-vessels of the Clyde and adjacent coasts have been in a great measure superseded by steam. This remark applies to almost all the sea-ports of Scotland.

In a moral point of view, the disadvantages resulting from steam preponderate. The increased introduction of strangers, coupled with the greater prevalence of spirit-drinking, has rendered more prevalent an increase of various sorts of immorality and crime, and disregard of the sabbath-day*.

* A gentleman residing in Bute states to me, that while lamenting the increase of vice and crime in the island, the great mass of the population is moral and exemplary in their deportment, in the observance of their religious duties, and attendance on Divine service. Lord Bute has exhibited a most exemplary regard to the moral and spiritual welfare of the people. To meet the demand of an increasing population, this liberal nobleman has erected and endowed a church, and

My excursions terminated as they commenced, with the Clyde. My purpose of extending them to many parts of the Coasts and Islands of Scotland, on which I have been unable to touch, was baffled by the perpetual rains and storms of the very unfavourable seasons in which I visited that country; especially the latter, memorable for its floods. Some future tourist, availing himself of the improved facilities of communication furnished by steam, and of more propitious weather, may by ampler and more accurate researches, supply the deficiencies, and rectify the errors, of my own and other previous surveys and observations. In the mean time my end has been answered, if, whilst enjoying the gratification of retracing my steps over regions abounding in much real and romantic interest—and of reviving the grateful remembrance of much cordial and disinterested hospitality,—I have contributed to enlarge the stock of public information respecting an integral and important portion of the British Empire.

provided the minister with salary, manse, parlour, and glebe, at an expense of 6000*l*. A few years ago, he built a church in the south of the island; and also a commodious parochial school and dwelling for the teacher: and supports several local teachers, besides contributing, by various other means, to the same beneficial objects.

APPENDIX.

NOTE I.

THE Rev. Dr. Macleod has kindly supplied me with the following complete account of all the books, original or translations, existing in the Gaelic language.

SCRIPTURES.

THE first translation of the New Testament appeared in the year 1767; and since that period there have been published, down to the year 1834, twenty large editions in London and Edinburgh.

The first Gaelic Old Testament appeared in the year 1783. The cost of publication for 5000 copies was 2300*l*. The publisher's price was 1*l*. 4*s*. on fine paper, and 16*s*. the cheapest. Since that period, down to the year 1834, there have appeared fourteen editions.

The first metrical version of the Psalms appeared in 1684. Since that period about sixty-one editions have been published.

The first translation of the Shorter (Westminster) Catechism appeared in the year 1659, and since that period fifty-five editions. — Bishop Carsewell of Argyle's Book of Common Prayer, 1567.—Book of Common Prayer, 1794, (two editions since that period.)—Confession of Faith of the Church of Scotland, 1725 (of which few editions have appeared).

GRAMMAR OF THE GAELIC LANGUAGE.

Four different grammars; the first in 1778, and the last, very good, by Munro, 1835.

LEXICONS.

Kirke's Vocabulary appeared 1690. Four other vocabularies followed.—Five Gaelic dictionaries.

POETRY.

Nineteen publications of original Gaelic Poetry by various individuals, most of them by persons who could not read a word of English.—Twenty-five separate collections of songs in the Gaelic language: none of them can be said to be profane or immoral, save one.—Ten separate collections of hymns on sacred subjects: some of them most beautiful.—The hymns of Dr. Buchanan have passed through eleven different editions: the first appeared 1785.—The most popular collection of all the Gaelic songs has passed but through three editions. No second edition of the rest ever called for, while the collection of spiritual hymns has passed through eleven editions.

ORIGINAL PROSE WORKS.

Beith on Baptism, in the year 1824.—Beith's Catechism, 1827. Broughton's Sermon, 1797. — Craford's Sermons, 1795. — Dewar's, Dr., Sermons, 1805.—Dr. Dewar's Gaelic Preacher, 1830.—Fraser on Baptism, 1828.—M'Dermid's Sermons, 1804. M'Kenzie's Catechism, 1821.—M'Leod's, Dr., Sermon, 1832. —The Christian Soldier, 1804.

TRANSLATIONS.

Alleine's Alarm to Sinners, (five editions of this popular work,) 1781.—Alleine's Saints' Pocket Book, 1823.—Baxter's Call to Sinners, (three editions of this work,) 1750.—Blair's Sermons, 1812.—Boston's Fourfold State, (two editions,) 1811.—Boston's Crook in the Lot.—Brown's Catechism, 1799.—Brooke's Apples of Gold, 1824.—Brown's National Primer, 1819.—Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress, 1812.—Bunyan's Death of Badman, 1824. —Bunyan's Barren Fig Tree, 1824.—Bunyan's Sighs from Hell, 1825.—Bunyan's Heavenly Footman, 1829.—Burder's Sermons, 1821.—Calvin's Catechism, 1631.—Campbell on the Sufferings, 1800.—Colquhoun on the Covenant, 1826.—Doddridge's Rise and Progress, (two editions,) 1811.—Doddridge's

One thing needful, 1811.—Dodsley's Economy of Life, 1806.—Dyer's Christ's Titles, 1817.—Earle on the Sacrament, 1827.—Flavel's Token for Mourners.—Franklin's Way to Wealth, 1785.—Gilfillan on the Sabbath, 1813.—Grant's Address to Children, 1829.—Gray's Catechism on Baptism, 1813.—Guthrie's Great Interest, (two editions,) 1783.—Innes's Instructions, 1827.—M'Gowan's History of Joseph, 1831.—Newton's Life, 1817.—Richmond's Dairyman's Daughter, 1822.—Spence's Sermons, 1825.—Thomas à Kempis, 1785.—Thompson's Catechism, (two editions,) 1813.—Watts's Catechisms, 1774.—Willison on the Shorter Catechism, (two editions,) 1773.—Willison's Mother's Catechism, (five editions,) 1552.—Willison's Communicant's Catechism, (two editions,) 1798.—Willison on the Sabbath.—Summary of Christian Doctrine, 1781.—First Initiatory Catechism, 1827.—Second Initiatory Catechism, 1827.—Three Dialogues on Popery, 1825.—Life of Andrew Dun, 1829.—Controversy between a Protestant and Papist, 1823.—Catechism on the Errors of the Church of Rome, 1799.—Scripture Catechism, 1829.

MISCELLANEOUS LITERATURE.

Collection for the use of Schools, 1828.—M'Intosh's Proverbs, (two editions,) 1785.—M'Laurin's First Book, (two editions,) 1811.—M'Laurin's Second Book, (two editions,) 1816.—M'Laurin's Elements, 1816.—The First Book, 1826.—The Second Book, 1826.—The First Book, 1823.—M'Bean's Spelling, 1824.—M'Laurin's Essay and Poem, 1822.—Munro's Primer, 1828.—The Rasroine, 1803.—The Gaelic Messenger, by Dr. M'Leod, of Campsie, Vol. I., 1830, Vol. II., 1831.—Ballads.—Religious Tracts.—The Mountain Sketch-Book, by Dr. M'Leod, of Campsie, 1834.—The New Gaelic Magazine, 1835.

NOTE II.

Extract from Sir John Rennie's Report to his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor of the Isle of Man, and the Commissioners appointed by Parliament for making, maintaining, and improving the Harbours of the Isle of Man.

THE want of a central asylum harbour in the Irish Channel, to which vessels of all descriptions, whether outward or inward bound to and from foreign ports, or employed in the revenue-service or coasting-trade, could resort at all times of tide, and during all winds, has long been severely felt; and the numerous and disastrous shipwrecks which have already taken place, and still occur every year, attended with the lamentable destruction of human life and property in this channel, seriously call for a remedy. Considerable light has been thrown upon the subject, and much valuable information has been obtained, by Sir William Hillary, in his pamphlet of July, 1826; wherein he points out Douglas Bay as the best station for such a harbour, and invites the attention of government, as well as of the important shipping interests of Liverpool, Dublin, Whitehaven, Lancaster, and the coasts adjacent, to this interesting subject. He there states, with truth, that there is no low-water harbour of any magnitude between Holyhead and the Firth of Clyde, except the packet-harbours of Whitehaven and Port Patrick, a distance of up-

wards of 300 miles, on the east side of the Channel : whilst on the Irish Coast, with the exception of the packet harbours of Ardglass, Donaghadee, and Howth, there is no considerable port of refuge between Kingstown in Dublin Bay, and the Lough of Belfast. From hence it arises that vessels outward bound from Liverpool, when prevented from continuing their voyage by strong westerly winds, are driven back, and are compelled to beat about the Channel during long nights and stormy weather, at the imminent risk of shipwreck ; and even under the most favourable circumstances, are subject to great detention and expenses of wear and tear. The attempt to run back to Liverpool might be attended with still greater difficulties in consequence of the numerous dangerous and formidable banks which surround the mouth of the River Mersey in all directions for many miles to seaward, and the impracticability of entering at low water, or even sometimes at high water, particularly during the night, and dark and stormy weather. The large fleets of Colliers from Whitehaven, Workington, and the coast adjacent, from 70 to 100 and upwards of which sometimes leave those ports at one tide, and by which Dublin and a large portion of Ireland is supplied with coal, experience similar difficulties in their voyages, and frequently suffer shipwreck for want of a proper port of refuge to run to in event of need.

Upon a careful consideration of the Chart of the Irish Channel, and more particularly with reference to the important Port of Liverpool, and the populous surrounding country, whose yearly Imports and ex-

ports are so immense and continually increasing*, it plainly appears, that the Isle of Man occupies the most central position, and lies, as it were, in the main track of all vessels proceeding from and returning to Liverpool by the North Entrance to the Irish Channel, as well as of the immense intercourse by steam between Scotland, Ireland, and England, and of the extensive fleets of Colliers, and other vessels, from Whitehaven, Workington, Allonby, Maryport, and the towns on the Solway Frith, to Dublin, Drogheda, Newry, and Belfast, and the adjacent coasts. The Island, moreover, is easily accessible, particularly on the east side, in consequence of there being plenty of water close to the shore, with good holding-ground for anchorage, and no sunken shoals and rocks; so that during the prevalence of westerly winds, vessels usually take shelter under the lee of the Island, until they are enabled to proceed on their voyage. Notwithstanding these advantages, however, it frequently happens that after a long prevalence of wind from the westward, it suddenly veers round to the eastward and increases to a considerable gale: at this period, the Island, which previously formed a protection to shipping, becomes the reverse, and a heavy sea sets in upon its whole eastern shore, so much so that vessels cannot ride with safety at their anchors,

* According to the return of the Dock Duties, the number of vessels, and the amount of tonnage were, in the year ending 24th June, 1834, as follows:—

No. of vessels - - - - -	13,444	-	1,692,780 Tons
No. of voyages of steamers	2,281	.	401,631 ditto

1,291,237	} Tons of sailing vessels.
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and as it is almost impossible for them to work to windward under such circumstances, they are frequently driven ashore and wrecked. In confirmation of the above may be mentioned the melancholy examples of the total loss of the American ship *Minerva*, at Douglas, when eighteen out of twenty persons perished; in 1822, His Majesty's cutter, *Vigilant*, the Racehorse sloop of war, the *City of Glasgow* steam-packet, and only in November last, the *Fairfield* bound to the Havannah, with a cargo valued at 40,000*l.*, was lost near Castletown, besides the *Emulous*, and several other coasting vessels riding at the same time in Ramsay Bay, during a strong westerly wind, which suddenly changed round to an E.S.E. gale, and in which eight lives were lost. In addition to these, many other and equally lamentable cases could be cited, all of which would have been prevented if there had been a proper asylum-harbour to run to; and the values of the cargoes, and the vessels alone, besides the wear and tear of those keeping at sea, and the loss of time in being driven about the channel, and the more important consideration of saving human life, would more than have sufficed to defray the expense of such a work. Its importance, therefore, in every point of view, either as regards the extensive and valuable shipping interests and trade of Liverpool, Dublin, Glasgow, Whitehaven, Belfast, and the numerous other ports in the Irish Channel, or the Isle of Man Fisheries (which employ 250 vessels, and upwards of 2000 seamen), is undoubted; and it only remains to point out what is the most advisable place and plan, together with the expense of such a work.

First. With regard to the place : the central position of the Isle of Man, from its being in the line of voyage of all vessels passing and repassing by the north entrance to the Irish Channel to and from America, as well as of the equally important and extensive communication between England, Scotland, and Ireland, the depth of water and great rise of tide close to its shores, and its being generally clear of rocks and shoals, points it out as a most convenient and accessible situation ; and Douglas, being the centre and most populous part of the Island, and in other respects possessing the advantages above mentioned, appears, upon the whole, extremely well adapted for an asylum-harbour, such as proposed.

NOTE III.

*Account of the Imports and Exports to and from the
ISLE OF MAN, for the year ending 1835.*

IMPORTS.

The whole of the goods enumerated in the fourth section of the 3 and 4 Guilielmus IV., c. 60, termed licensed goods.

Also British manufactures, which pay $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. <i>ad valorem</i> duty, amount of value	- - - -	} £ 80,000
Timber and Wood, value	- - - -	
Various small articles from Foreign ports, field seeds, hams, &c.	- - - -	} 1,000
	- - - -	
		£ 89,000

EXPORTS.

Ale and Beer	- - - -	5,380	gallons.
Black Cattle	- - - -	452	

Bacon and Hams	-	-	-	2½ tons.
Butter	-	-	-	2 tons.
Beans and Pease	-	-	-	106 quarters.
Corn	-	-	-	31,000 quarters.
Eggs	-	-	-	500,000
Fullers' Earth	-	-	-	287 tons.
Horses	-	-	-	91
Herrings, white and red, (exclusive of those sent in bulk)	-	-	-	3,000 barrels.
Hat bodies	-	-	-	130 dozens.
Lime	-	-	-	9,000 barrels.
Limestone	-	-	-	2,500 tons.
Lead and Copper ore	-	-	-	1,624 tons.
Black Jack	-	-	-	560 tons.
Linen Cloth	-	-	-	21,185 yards.
Potatoes	-	-	-	2,235 tons.
Paving-stones	-	-	-	337 tons.
Paper	-	-	-	131,000 lbs. weight.
Sail Cloth	-	-	-	14,000 yards.
Sacks	-	-	-	400
Turnips	-	-	-	50 tons.
Vinegar	-	-	-	4,000 gallons.
Woollen Cloth	-	-	-	40 pieces.
Wool and Woollen Yarn	-	-	-	400 cwt.

In the same year there arrived at the Island, from foreign parts, 84 vessels, tonnage 12,000. Tonnage of vessels belonging to the Island, about 5000.

I am indebted to John Mac Hutchin, Esq. for some statements explanatory of this return, and of the commercial policy of the government of Great Britain towards the Isle of Man. These documents illustrate also the intercourse between Great Britain and the Island, previous and subsequent to the transfer of the sovereignty of the latter to the British crown, and indicate the opinion respecting the justice and expediency of that transfer entertained by the Manks-

men. From these it appears that the Island of Man was pronounced by the Lords of the Privy Council and the judges of England, in the reign of Elizabeth, to be an independent kingdom; and was treated as such by the British government till the Revestment Act, in 5th George III., when, according to the opinion of the Manks, they were transferred unlawfully, without their consent, as feudal vassals, from the Earl of Derby to the King of Great Britain. A principal object of this arrangement was to cut the Gordian knot of those commercial disputes which had been carried on between the two independent kingdoms: and it was followed immediately by the imposition of grievous and intolerable restrictions on the trade and commerce of the Island, which were consequently entirely destroyed. For in a short time after the passing of the Act, the trading towns in the Island became almost deserted; the rents of houses and lands fell to one-third of their former value; and many of the inhabitants, although affectionately attached to their native Island, were obliged to forsake it, and seek their bread in foreign lands.

The sequel to the narrative contained in this sketch, is written in 1825.

“After the Revestment in 1765, various Acts of Parliament were passed to prevent smuggling, and 40,000 gallons of British spirits were allowed to be imported annually, at a duty of 1s. the gallon. Foreign spirits (brandy and Geneva) could not be imported, but on the payment of the English duties.

“In the year 1791, the late Sir William Grant and four other gentlemen were appointed Commis-

sioners to report on various points respecting the Island. They found that no part of the British spirits had been imported from the year 1784, that brandy and Geneva were in common use, and that smuggling into the Island was carried on to a great extent, although revenue cruisers were stationed on the coasts.

	£.	s.	d.
The gross Revenue from January, 1790	3,016	8	11
to 1791 was - - - - -			
The Disbursements for the same year -	3,272	2	2
The whole of the Revenue from 1765	75,576	1	3½
to 1791 - - - - -			

“ With a view to prevent smuggling, as well as to increase the revenue, the Commissioners recommended that a limited quantity of foreign spirits, &c. &c., should be allowed to be imported on moderate duties. Their recommendation was adopted, and an Act was passed, 38 Geo. III., cap. 63, to regulate the trade of the Island, in the spirit of which Act all the subsequent Acts respecting the trade of the Island have been made.

The last Act was passed in the 3 and 4 of William IV., cap. 60,—the gross Revenue is now about - - - - -	} £.25,000 per ann.
The expenses of the government, custom-house establishment, &c. &c., do not amount to - - - - -	
Net Revenue - - - - -	10,000
	£.15,000

“ A pretty good proof of the wisdom of the recommendation made by the Commissioners : there is not now one revenue cruiser stationed on the coast ; indeed there is no smuggling, except it be in foreign corn. See remonstrance of the Keys on this subject.

“ It is said that the Island is prosperous, and can bear taxation.

“ We have no trade but the exportation of the surplus produce of the soil and the herring-fisheries, and scarcely any manufactories.

“ The apparent flourishing state of the Island arises from the number of half-pay officers and gentlemen of moderate incomes, who have retired there for the purpose of enjoying *their luxuries*; and it is ascertained that they draw from England more than 100,000*l.* annually: any considerable change in the revenue laws would drive these gentlemen to the continent.

“ The whole of the Island contains about 130,000 acres of land, 30,000 of which are barren wastes, and 25,000 acres of intack lands: it follows that the whole rental of the Island cannot exceed 100,000*l.*, and the mortgages chiefly held by people in England amount to 800,000*l.*, which, at five per cent interest, makes 40,000*l.* per annum.

“ If the British Government adopts any measure which will deprive the Island of the benefit of the 100,000*l.* brought in by half-pay officers, &c., the Island will sink into what it was previous to the passing of the Act of 1798, and smuggling into the Island would be resumed; in fact it is feared it would become a smuggling depôt, unless coast-guards and revenue cruisers were maintained there at an enormous expense.

List of annual Allowance of Licensed Articles.

		<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
110 tons of Wine	-	12	0 per ton.
10,000 gallons of Brandy	-	4	6 per gallon.

	s.	d.	
10,000 gallons of Geneva	-	4 6	per gallon.
60,000 ——— Rum	-	3 0	ditto.
60,000 lbs. of Tobacco	-	1 6	per lb.
70,000 lbs. of Black Tea	-	6	ditto.
5,000 lbs. of Green Tea	-	1 0	ditto.
8,000 lbs. of Coffee	-	4	ditto.
10,000 cwt. Muscovado Sugar	-	1 0	per cwt.
800 cwt. of Refined Sugar 2½ per cent., <i>ad valorem</i> ,—			
to supply a population of 40,000.			

“The whole of the wine, rum, and tobacco, are seldom imported*.

“*Timber.*—The existence of the herring-fishery depends on the importation of timber; not one boat could be built with timber the growth of the Island.”

* A proof of the cessation of smuggling

NOTE IV.

CRIMES AND PUNISHMENTS IN THE ISLE OF MAN.

A Return of Felons Imprisoned in the Gaol of Castle Rushen, Isle of Man, from 1st January, 1828, to 31st December, 1835.

	1828	1829	1830	1831	1832	1833	1834	1835
Murder	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—
Rape	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Treason	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Felony	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—
Forgery	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Highway Robbery . .	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Stabbing with a Knife .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Grand Larceny	6	1	2	7	1	6	5	1
Stealing Cattle	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Horse Stealing	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Sheep Stealing	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	—
Stealing part of a wreck .	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—
Stealing Money	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—

A Return of the number of Persons committed for Petit Larceny and Misdemeanors in the Isle of Man, from 1st January, 1828, to 31st December, 1835.

	1828	1829	1830	1831	1832	1833	1834	1835
Petit Larceny	2	1	5	5	11	3	2	2
Misdemeanors	8	8	8	5	1	4	1	4

PUNISHMENTS.

	Capital.	Transported.			Sent to Peni- tentiary	Acquit- ted.	Indicted but not yet tried	Escaped from Gaol.
		Life.	14 yrs.	7 yrs.				
Murder	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...
Rape	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Treason	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Felony	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...
Forgery	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Highway Robbery . .	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Stabbing with a knife .	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Grand Larceny	...	...	5	18	...	6	...	1
Stealing Cattle	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Horse Stealing	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Sheep Stealing	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...
Stealing part of a wreck	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...
Stealing Money	...	...	...	5	1	...	...	...

Committals for Felony from 1st Jannary,	}	58
1828, to December, 31st, 1835. . . .		
Convicted		36
Acquitted		20
Untried		1
Escaped from Gaol		1

The following is a list of the names of the persons who have been appointed to the various offices of the County of Kings, and for the term of one year, commencing on the 1st day of January, 1888.

Name		Office		Term	
J. H. Smith		County Clerk		1888-1889	
W. J. Brown		County Sheriff		1888-1889	
C. D. Jones		County Treasurer		1888-1889	
A. E. White		County Assessor		1888-1889	
B. F. Black		County Engineer		1888-1889	
G. H. Green		County Surveyor		1888-1889	
I. J. Hall		County Coroner		1888-1889	
K. L. King		County Jailor		1888-1889	
L. M. Lee		County Constable		1888-1889	
N. O. Nelson		County Marshal		1888-1889	
P. Q. Quinn		County Jailor		1888-1889	
R. S. Reed		County Jailor		1888-1889	
T. U. Turner		County Jailor		1888-1889	
V. W. Vance		County Jailor		1888-1889	
X. Y. Young		County Jailor		1888-1889	
Z. A. Adams		County Jailor		1888-1889	
B. C. Baker		County Jailor		1888-1889	
D. E. Davis		County Jailor		1888-1889	
F. G. Evans		County Jailor		1888-1889	
H. I. Harris		County Jailor		1888-1889	
J. K. Jones		County Jailor		1888-1889	
L. M. Lee		County Jailor		1888-1889	
N. O. Nelson		County Jailor		1888-1889	
P. Q. Quinn		County Jailor		1888-1889	
R. S. Reed		County Jailor		1888-1889	
T. U. Turner		County Jailor		1888-1889	
V. W. Vance		County Jailor		1888-1889	
X. Y. Young		County Jailor		1888-1889	
Z. A. Adams		County Jailor		1888-1889	
B. C. Baker		County Jailor		1888-1889	
D. E. Davis		County Jailor		1888-1889	
F. G. Evans		County Jailor		1888-1889	
H. I. Harris		County Jailor		1888-1889	
J. K. Jones		County Jailor		1888-1889	
L. M. Lee		County Jailor		1888-1889	
N. O. Nelson		County Jailor		1888-1889	
P. Q. Quinn		County Jailor		1888-1889	
R. S. Reed		County Jailor		1888-1889	
T. U. Turner		County Jailor		1888-1889	
V. W. Vance		County Jailor		1888-1889	
X. Y. Young		County Jailor		1888-1889	
Z. A. Adams		County Jailor		1888-1889	
B. C. Baker		County Jailor		1888-1889	
D. E. Davis		County Jailor		1888-1889	
F. G. Evans		County Jailor		1888-1889	
H. I. Harris		County Jailor		1888-1889	
J. K. Jones		County Jailor		1888-1889	
L. M. Lee		County Jailor		1888-1889	
N. O. Nelson		County Jailor		1888-1889	
P. Q. Quinn		County Jailor		1888-1889	
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A RETURN of the QUANTITY of SPIRITS, stated in Imp
and that paid DUTY for the HOME CONSUMPT
each Year, from 5th January, 1815, to 5th Ja

Years ended 5th January	NUMBER OF GALLONS AT HYDROMETER PRO					
	DISTILLED IN			EXPORTED FROM		
	ENGLAND.	SCOTLAND.	IRELAND.	SCOTLAND TO ENGLAND.	SCOTLAND TO IRELAND.	I
1816	3,402,489	3,024,430	4,468,106	1,482,025	.....	
1817	3,486,478	2,145,366	4,562,286	1,217,312	.....	
1818	2,907,732	3,060,499	2,692,182	1,223,925	.....	
1819	3,782,512	3,062,820	4,474,777	1,466,932	.....	
1820	2,815,716	3,547,199	3,879,216	1,236,512	.....	
1821	2,866,684	3,278,129	4,607,296	1,000,181	.....	
1822	2,662,852	3,216,858	3,627,552	1,168,791	.....	
1823	3,181,026	3,337,850	4,135,045	1,075,224	.....	
1824	2,134,913	3,083,515	2,844,677	817,730	.....	
1825	2,894,309	5,908,373	6,361,248	1,096,744	370,127	
1826	2,039,771	8,224,807	8,835,027	1,242,594	942,651	
1827	3,209,044	8,563,994	9,046,959	3,218,778	775,146	
1828	3,451,620	7,243,819	7,283,317	2,584,337	663,213	
1829	3,974,785	10,117,027	9,725,259	3,232,511	986,368	
1830	3,860,542	9,649,070	9,208,538	3,008,687	811,244	
1831	4,656,443	9,883,413	8,694,742	2,724,221	1,006,493	
1832	3,444,792	9,510,268	8,786,343	2,718,644	1,068,714	
1833	3,788,068	7,979,088	9,260,920	2,359,608	469,428	
1834	4,591,223	9,146,889	9,509,774	2,587,316	406,101	
1835	4,652,838	9,193,091	9,370,343	2,563,599	549,555	
1836	4,327,425	9,133,449	11,167,580	2,417,715	769,834	

NOTE V.

HAVE obtained, through the kindness of a friend holding an appointment in the Treasury, an official statement, and also by queries addressed to Scotland, local information, illustrative of the financial and moral effects of the alteration of the Duty on Spirits, and of the joint efforts of the Excise, and of the landed proprietors, to suppress illegal Distillation.

It appears from the annexed Return, that the progressive reduction of the Duty during the period which it embraces, from 9s. 4½*d.* to 2s. 10*d.*, a still lower rate having been fixed for a short time, produced an immense increase in the legal distillation of spirits : that the subsequent raising the duty to 3s. 4*d.*, diminished the quantity, but augmented the revenue ; and that the importation of spirits distilled in Scotland, to England and to Ireland, has materially increased. From the recent statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, it appears that a decrease in the consumption of foreign spirits had resulted. Of the whole quantity of spirits distilled in Scotland, nearly two-thirds are consumed in that country itself.

The following replies to the queries which I sent to Scotland, refer to the effects of the increased consumption of legal spirits on illegal distillation, and on the morals of the people ; and also, incidentally, to another subject of much interest,—adverted to frequently in the course of my work,—emigration from the Highlands and Islands.

The following letter is from a friend, a resident

each Kingdom, Exported from one Kingdom to another Kingdom of DUTY for each Kingdom, and for the United Kingdom, all in

DUTY FOR CONSUMPTION.

			IRELAND.			UNITED KINGDOM.		
Amount of Duty.			Number of Gallons.	Rate per Gallon,	Amount of Duty	Total Number of Gallons.	Total Amount of Duty.	
£.	s.	d.		s. d.	£. s. d.		£.	s. d.
43,506	0	3	{ 2,283,203	5 7¼	{ 1,312,908 15 0	11,383,979	4,897,006	11 3
			{ 2,040,641	6 1½				
27,658	16	8	{ 2,123,238	5 7¼	{ 1,037,185 13 10	9,221,543	3,911,981	10 5
			{ 1,433,962	6 1½				
99,168	3	5	3,586,932	5 7¼	1,026,277 9 9	9,626,945	3,757,766	9 11
40,500	13	9	4,284,347	.....	1,175,077 8 9	11,610,997	4,496,709	5 11
58,773	18	4	3,676,516	.....	1,036,924 4 2	9,948,171	3,913,705	10 3
76,892	1	2	3,299,650	.....	924,993 1 0	9,448,435	4,012,707	8 8
38,088	5	8	3,311,462	.....	928,304 10 9	9,822,573	4,085,673	14 11
86,739	18	4	2,910,483	.....	815,897 15 6	9,829,662	4,252,009	19 1
60,356	14	11	{ 1,209,368	.....	{ 624,819 9 0	9,696,974	3,407,449	12 4
			{ 2,381,008	2 4¾ 5/8				
24,758	16	2	6,690,315	.....	803,148 6 6	15,433,227	3,895,285	6 2
17,977	10	0	9,262,743	.....	1,111,825 12 0	18,928,341	3,884,830	6 5
65,078	6	0	6,834,867	2 10	967,998 12 11	18,230,859	4,125,598	6 11
73,228	3	10	8,260,664	.....	1,170,233 7 2	19,684,425	4,178,508	5 0
09,792	3	4	9,937,903	.....	1,407,869 11 10	23,413,770	4,933,552	4 2
18,448	0	0	9,212,223	.....	1,305,064 18 6	22,690,269	4,818,781	0 6
39,534	1	10	{ 2,258,386	.....	{ 1,412,917 7 8	22,744,271	5,209,599	8 6
			{ 1,882,768	3 0				
			{ 4,863,385	3 4				
50,114	16	8	8,710,672	.....	1,451,778 13 4	21,845,408	5,189,661	2 6
01,182	16	8	8,657,756	.....	1,442,959 6 8	21,346,753	5,074,854	13 4
98,092	13	4	8,168,596	.....	1,361,432 13 4	21,874,455	5,253,513	19 2
16			{ 4,733,242		{ 1,369,310 12 8	23,397,760	5,243,430	13 6
16	91	16	{ 4,975,174	2 4				
16	31	160	11,381,223		1,327,809 7 0	24,710,208	5,073,276	4 6

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NOTE V.

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The following letter is from a friend, a resident

landed proprietor on the western coast, on the borders of Argyleshire and Inverness-shire:—

“I now hope that the enclosed letters contain the information which you require.

“One is from the Comptroller of the Customs at Greenock (A), the other from Lord Macdonald’s factor (B), in the Island of Uist; and as they agree very nearly in their statements on general facts, I feel that their accuracy may be depended upon.

“Illicit distillation has been suppressed, I believe, almost entirely in the more populous districts of the north and east Highlands; but it still exists in some of the remote glens within our western fastnesses. I hear of it on the west-coast of Ross-shire, opposite to Skye, in Mull, and in Moidart.

“Wherever the proprietors are serious in their determination to put it down, it of course must cease; and in the neighbourhood of small legal distilleries, where people can sell their barley, and obtain cheap whisky, the supposed necessity of carrying on an illicit traffic does not exist.

“In large towns, cheap whisky has a very decided tendency to demoralize the inhabitants,—(I mean the poorer or working classes). But I should say, that throughout the Highlands the crime of drunkenness is less frequent than when whisky was obtained from the illicit distiller, or brewed at home.

“I regret to learn that a check has been given to emigration, because the supply of hands is very superabundant, when compared with the demand for labour; and in its present state, the Highlands cannot furnish food for its population.

“The want of capital prevents the proprietors and

occupiers of the soil from bringing into cultivation the many acres of waste land, capable of being improved."

QUERIES.

(A.)

1. *What is the effect of the legal distilleries, which have been established in divers parts of Scotland?*

The suppression of illicit distillation, in most cases, entirely, and ready market for the grain in each district of the country.

2. *What is the effect of the reduction of duty on spirits?*

The first reduction of 2s., old wine gallon, banished the smuggler from the market wherever legal distilleries could be erected.

Two subsequent increases to the present rate, 3s. 4d. imperial gallon, show that it is now high enough to induce smuggling in some parts of the country.

3. *What is the effect of the increased efficacy of the police on the practice of illicit distillation.*

No special revenue police is employed in Scotland, the suppression being left to the local officers in most cases.

In some districts riding officers course the country for the special purpose : in some, the crews of three cutters assist.

4. *Is the practice suppressed?*

It has in some measure revived in some of the remoter districts of the Highlands ; but many places, once the haunts of the illicit distiller, are now quite clear.

5. *Is any progress made on the moral and religious improvement of the people?*

Among the dregs of the people, and some of the industrious classes, their deterioration from intemperance is steady and progressive.

Among the more respectable of all ranks, there seems a progress in intelligence, education, morals, and religion.

6. *To what extent has emigration gone on from the western coast.*

To a considerable extent, as will be seen by the following statement for the last four years of the emigration from this port, which includes the whole coast of Argyleshire, from Crinan to Tobermory.

	Austra- lia.	United States.	British Colonies.	Total.
1832	8	1339	2900	4247
1833	41	1419	1903	3363
1834	22	1401	995	2418
1835	14	2140	1368	3522

Oban and Tobermory are comprehended in the above, being creeks belonging to this port.

Emigrants embarking from the country south of Crinan, and the islands of Isla and Jura, clear at the port of Campbeltown. A great many during the same periods embarked from Glasgow and Port Glasgow.

(B.)

THE FOLLOWING ANSWERS REFER ONLY TO THE
LONG ISLAND.

Answer 1.—The establishment of legal distilleries has greatly tended to the suppression of illicit distillation, because good spirits are now supplied by these distilleries at so low a rate, and of such excellent quality, that illicit spirits find fewer purchasers. They have also tended to increase the growth of barley, by affording the inhabitants a ready market for the article.

Ans. 2.—I do not think the consumption of spirits has been at all increased by the reduction of the duty, because before the establishment of the legal distilleries, the people distilled for themselves, or else purchased the spirits from others at as low a rate as they now do from the legal distilleries.

Ans. 3.—No police have been employed for the suppression of illicit distillation. The excise have perhaps of late been somewhat more on the alert, and offenders more severely punished than formerly. This has tended to the suppression of illicit distillation.

Ans. 4.—In the Long Island generally, the practice has I believe been nearly put an end to. In the parishes of North and South Uist, I know it has been entirely suppressed. It is only by the decided and active interference of the proprietors and their factors, that illicit distillation can be completely suppressed.

Ans. 5.—Very considerable progress has been made in the moral and religious improvement of the people. The Parish Schools, the schools established by the General Assembly, the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, the Gaelic School Society, and the Glasgow and Inverness Societies,—the increased activity and zeal of the clergy in the discharge of their duties, have combined in instructing the people, and improving their morals. The suppression of illicit distillation has contributed much to this result. Formerly almost every family distilled a small quantity of spirits, which they generally drank among themselves; and this invariably led to every sort of vice.

Ans. 6.—For the last three years emigration has been almost entirely at a stand. An unfortunate prejudice exists at present in the minds of the people against it. This arises both from the unfavourable accounts which those who formerly emigrated give of the country, in letters to their friends, and from want of confidence in the emigrant agents. But the greatest obstacle to emigration arises from the poverty of the people. Some years ago emigration went annually on to a considerable extent; but the effects of what then took place are now little felt. The population is now greater than ever in the Long Island,—greater than the country can maintain.

The following is an extract from a very intelligent friend, residing on his estate in Isla.

“As to distillation it has increased to the more effectual ruin of the morals of the Scotch, but from the constant bankruptcy of the proprietors of the distilleries here, to the advantage of none, and my opinion is that, as the tenants are enabled to pay their rent alone, by the sale of Barley, it induces them to force their land to its injury and destruction, instead of raising oats, better adapted to the climate, and by which land can be reclaimed and brought into arable and grass, confining the culture of barley to the sharp, dry, gravelly land. Nor have the legal distilleries had the promised effect of suppressing illicit stills, which abound here still. We have plenty of excise-officers, and occasional seizures and prosecutions, but the most of these officers are stationed at or near the distilleries, while the wild and distant parts are left in undisturbed possession of the smuggler. It could be put down by either the excise or proprietors, as many have done, by making it a clause in the lease; by the board of excise stationing an officer at every mill where the malt can only be ground, and being more on the alert.”

The following replies to my queries are from Lord Bute's factor, at Rothsay:—

Has the drinking of spirits much increased, and to what cause is the increase attributed?

I am afraid there is no disputing the fact that drinking of spirits has very considerably increased, amongst the working and labouring classes, throughout the whole of Scotland, compared with their general sobriety and abstinence not many

years ago, but I would not say that there has been any marked increase in Bute, within the last five or six years, from what existed for as many previous ones, particularly from the general increase which took place over the country, on the reduction of the malt and spirit duty, a few years ago, and to this cause, I apprehend, are we to attribute the increase of drinking,—viz., the great supply thrown into the market, and cheapness of the article. I would assign another cause: namely, the great increase which has gradually taken place in the number of public-houses, and other places which have been opened for the sale of spirits, and the modern system of grocers and other dealers selling spirits in drams over the counters,—a practice which cannot be too much reprobated,—I fear also it cannot be denied that the immoral and dissolute character of the age, and the general improvident habits of the lower orders, and their losing that feeling of independence, which, at no very distant period, characterized the Scottish peasant and labourer, has had a great effect in leading the people to the dram-shop.

What is the state of morals—improving or not?

I am of opinion that morals have not generally improved of late years, although I am happy to say the great mass of the population of Bute is moral and exemplary in their conduct and deportment, and in the observance of their religious duties, and attendance upon Divine service. Formerly there were few exceptions to this observation, but of late years they have become more numerous, and this, I think, is one of the evils which we must balance with the good which steam-navigation has brought to us, from the great influx of strangers into the island, of every description of character, many of whom are far from setting a good example to the young people they come in contact with here, either in a religious or moral point of view. I allude particularly to the bad example shown of thieving, drinking, pilfering, obscene conversation, sabbath-breaking, and that kind of sturdy insolence, and want of respect exhibited towards superiors. This remark,

I would say, applies to the exceptionable characters who visit Bute, from time to time, and not to the natives; but it is impossible that they can altogether escape its baneful effects.

The next letter is from a minister of the church of Scotland, at Campbeltown.

“The State of Morals. It is extremely difficult for a person, whose observation extends only to a few years, to say whether or not the morals of the people are improving. For many years preceding the last ten, the greatest evil which afflicted this parish, and the neighbouring ones, was illicit distillation. For the last ten years, however, it has been almost entirely suppressed; but previous to that, it prevailed to a very great extent. It has been productive of much evil, which it will take long time to eradicate. In those parts of the parish where it chiefly prevailed, Sabbath-profanation and the neglect of attendance at church are more common than in other places; while the people are poorer, and worse clothed and fed.

“I am inclined to think that there is an improvement in the habits of the people as to the use of spirituous liquors. Drunkenness, although still too common, is less so than it was ten years ago. Though ardent spirits are still used on many occasions where it were better they were dispensed with, such as baptisms and funerals; yet instances of excess on such occasions are very rare: Indeed, I hope I may say that at funerals intoxication is never witnessed. Drunkenness, I am convinced, would be less frequent than it is, if there were fewer licensed houses for the sale of spirits, and if greater care were

bestowed in inquiring into the character of those who receive licenses. When a tippling-house is to be met with at every turn, where drinking without restraint is allowed, need it excite wonder that the vice of drunkenness is common? The vice will exist in proportion to the encouragement it receives.

“ With regard to the *regularity* of attendance on public worship, I am inclined to think there is an improvement. The Sabbath is reverently observed; and while there is still much carelessness and irreligion, I would fondly hope that among the rising generation there is more religious knowledge, and more interest in religion to be found, than there formerly was. This, I trust, will not be without good fruits.”

The following is a return of the comparative number of distilleries, amount of duties paid on malt and spirits, and of convictions in Campbeltown, during six years:—

AMOUNT OF THE DUTIES PAID BY THE PEOPLE IN CAMPBELTOWN,
ON MALT AND SPIRITS.

Years.	Duties.			No. of Officers.	No. of Distillers.	Distilleries Erecting	Convictions.
	£.	s.	d.				
1830	65,333	6	3	16	13	...	28
1831	68,882	8	9	16	13	...	31
1832	71,726	2	1	18	15	...	23
1833	83,531	10	5	23	20	...	25
1834	91,670	10	1	27	24	...	20
1835	104,455	5	3	28	25	1	19

Besides the above amount, there is annually paid by the Distillers in Campbeltown, to the collector of Glasgow, from 7000*l.* to 10,000*l.*, for spirits sent to duty-free warehouses in Glasgow: also a considerable number of gallons, annually exported duty free to Ireland, and foreign parts.

It is obvious that in order to form a general inference respecting the effect of the reduction of the duty on spirits, and concomitant causes, on the morals of the people, it would be necessary to extend inquiries beyond the limits of their country, to all parts of England and Scotland, and especially to the large towns. The inference from the data exhibited in this note is, I am willing to believe, conclusive, as to a diminution almost amounting to extinction of illegal distillation in the Highlands and Islands, and a corresponding decrease of profligacy and crime resulting from it.

The return from Campbeltown of the comparative amount of duty on spirits distilled, and of convictions, places this conclusion in a striking light. The diminution of convictions, notwithstanding the enormous increase of legal distillation in that town, proves that its demoralizing effects must be sought, not necessarily where it is carried on; whilst its immediate influence, in suppressing the illegal practice, is unquestionably beneficial.

THE END.

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ERRATA.

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129, for "Lowlands end the Mearns," read "Lowlands of the Mearns."
135, for "and long maintained," read "who long maintained."
144, for "with all the force," read "with all the energy."
150, for "a mere diffusive system," read "a more diffusive system."
161, for "a board," read "a band of well-established ministers."
168, for "by empowering," read "of empowering."
228, for "will be brought," read "will not be brought."
243, for "in our church censures," read "having been subjected to, &c."
396, for "service has," read "services have."
401, for "characters," read "character."

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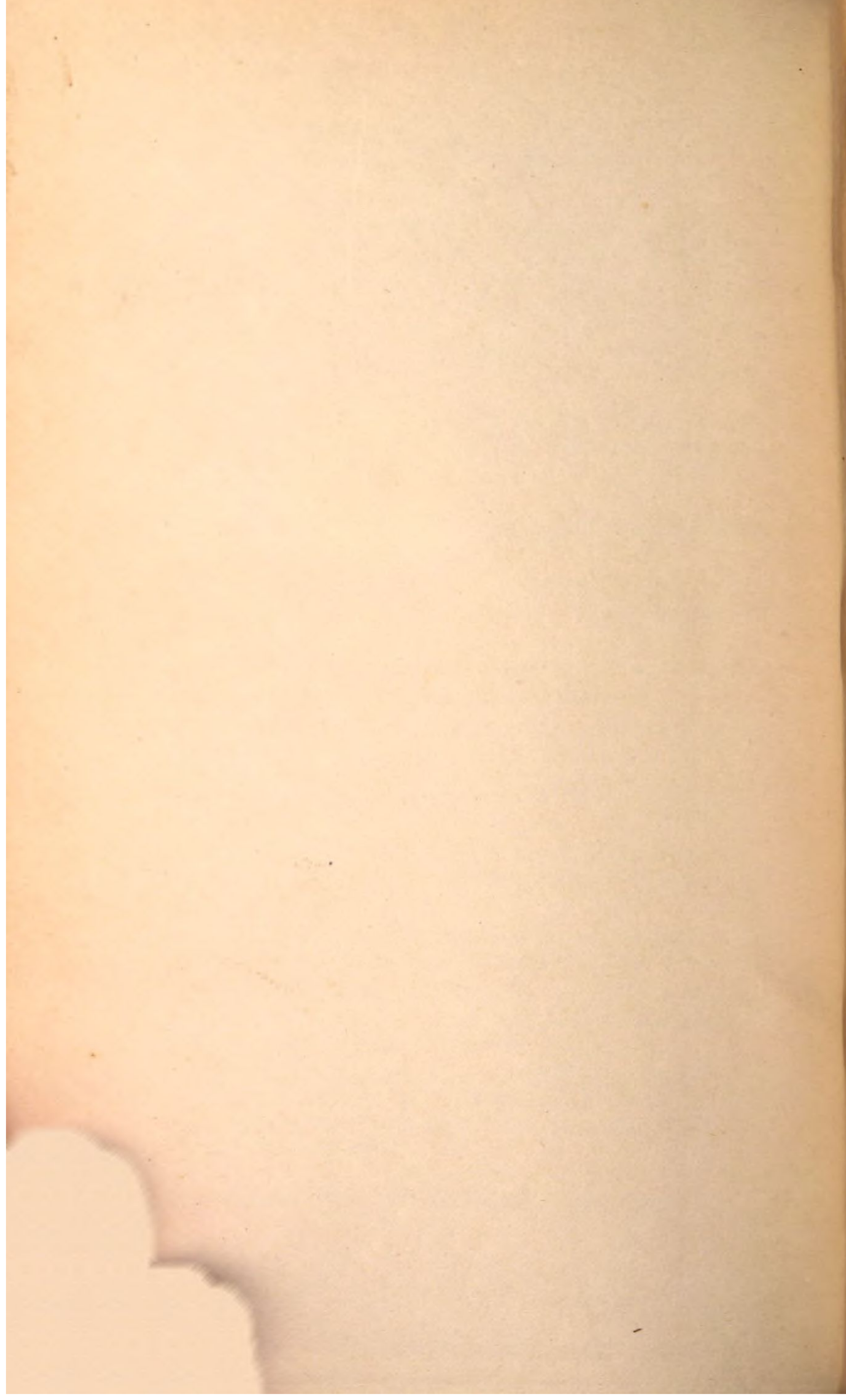
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